

YAY, AUGUST 28, 1994
COLUMN 18
Clinton's back on Martha's Vineyard
EDGARTOWN, Mass. — Fresh off a hard-fought victory on the crime beat, President Bill Clinton heads for a laid-back and rustic, chic and serene Martha's Vineyard vacation. Air Force One brought the Clinton entourage to land off the Massachusetts coast shortly before 9 a.m. A boisterous crowd of at least 100 people is on hand to cheer and welcome the first family. Clinton is expected to stop by the minister, Khalid Al Ghazawi, on the ministry's programmes and its role in creating an information system on the labour market. Dr. Ghazawi also briefed Prince Abdullah on the role of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in providing vocational training for Jordanians and helping job-seekers. Prince Abdullah met with directors of the ministry's departments and called on them to direct special attention to the development of human resources and providing job opportunities for Jordanian job-seekers.

GCC wants Iraqi border recognition

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Gulf states want Iraq to recognise not only Kuwait's sovereignty but also the new border between the two countries drawn by the United Nations, a Kuwaiti foreign ministry official said Sunday. Diplomats from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are lobbying the U.N. in New York to force Iraq to accept their demand, said the official, who asked not to be named. The GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — wanted to avoid the risk of Iraq recognising Kuwaiti sovereignty without respecting the new border. The GCC wants an official and unequivocal Iraqi recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and border, "said the Kuwaiti official. GCC states would only be satisfied with official recognition from the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest authority, ratified by the Iraqi parliament, he said. Officials have suggested that Iraq was ready to recognise Kuwaiti sovereignty before a U.N. review of an oil embargo imposed on Baghdad after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

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Prince Abdullah briefed on labour issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein on Sunday called at the Ministry of Labour and was briefed by the minister, Khalid Al Ghazawi, on the ministry's programmes and its role in creating an information system on the labour market. Dr. Ghazawi also briefed Prince Abdullah on the role of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in providing vocational training for Jordanians and helping job-seekers. Prince Abdullah met with directors of the ministry's departments and called on them to direct special attention to the development of human resources and providing job opportunities for Jordanian job-seekers.

Petersen urges peace moves

CAIRO (AFP) — Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen urged countries in the Middle East to make their peace after talks here Sunday with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa. In a joint press conference he said it was "time to reach an accord between all the concerned parties" adding that "obstacles in the Israeli-Syrian track have to be eliminated." Mr. Petersen was also due to meet President Hosni Mubarak on his 48-hour visit here, after arriving from Damascus where he held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Shara. He added Denmark would take part in a meeting in Paris in September of donor countries which have pledged to back Palestinian self-rule.

7 pro-Syrians executed in Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Seven Iraqi members of the pro-Syrian faction of the Arab Baath Socialist Party have been executed in Iraqi prisons, party colleagues announced Sunday in a statement carried by the official Syrian news agency SANA. A faction of the Baath Party which has ruled Syria since 1963 is bitterly opposed to a rival faction in power in Iraq since 1968. The statement from the "Iraqi command" of the pro-Syrian faction based in Damascus did not say when the seven were arrested. It named them as: Mohammad Abdin Ka'i, Mohammad Ayub Al-Dulaymi, Maan Wahib, Walid Al-Ubaydi, Hamed Abdul Ka'i, Mohammad Kaisem Hammud, and Zabeir Hassan.

Palestinian killed in Fatah turf war

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian was shot to death in an apparent turf war between members of rival security groups within Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah, Palestinian sources said Sunday. Nidal Hassan Khouri, 25, was killed and six others wounded during a gun battle Saturday in the West Bank village of Iratah, said the sources. The dispute was between the Palestinian internal intelligence service and another force known as the presidential security service which were competing for influence in the area, they said. Khouri was a member of presidential security.

Libya ships aid to Yemen

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya has sent 525 tonnes of food and medicines to Yemen by ship to help those affected by the recent two-month civil war, the official Libyan news agency JANA said Sunday. A ship loaded with 500 tonnes of food and 25 tonnes of medicines and milk products left Libya Saturday bound for Yemen. The United Nations has launched a \$2.1 million appeal for Yemen, which was torn by civil war.

Demirel ends brief visit supporting peace moves

King, Turkish leader underline Iraq's role
HM says Jordan-Israel talks not easy

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkish President Suleiman Demirel on Sunday called a one-day visit to the Kingdom, saying he would seek further strengthening of Jordanian-Turkish relations and pledging Ankara's support for the establishment of permanent peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Demirel described as "fruitful" talks he held with His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral ties, the Middle East peace process and other regional developments, saying the views the two countries hold on these issues are "almost identical."

Welcoming the Turkish president in Jordan as a "partner" in the future, King Hussein said the two countries were committed to work together, thanking Turkey for its support for Jordan in "all fields so that to achieve our goals and ambitions" for the future.

Noting Turkey's involvement in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Demirel told a press conference before departure from Amman that "I cannot tell you anything specific (about how Turkey can help the peace process) but if we can be useful" Turkey would not hesitate to offer help.

Mr. Demirel expressed

support for the developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace talks, describing as "a major breakthrough" the Washington Declaration which was signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

King Hussein said progress was being made in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and "the atmosphere is good," adding that no aspect of the negotiations was surprising or gave the impression that the talks were not part of the international community.

"All the countries want to trade with Iraq ... but Turkey will not act alone," Mr. Demirel said in response to a question.

"There is no reason for scepticism. It is fairly obvious, and I have made it very clear from the outset that all (the problems) cannot be resolved overnight. They will take time and hard work and I believe that this is what is happening," King Hussein said in response to a question.

Responding to a question on the situation in Iraq, King Hussein said: "We have a very serious and continued concern for the integrity of the land and the alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people."

The King said both Jordan and Turkey were affected by the situation in Iraq, expressing "hope" that Iraq would once again play a vital role in the region.

Mr. Demirel expressed

come to a satisfactory conclusion," King Hussein told reporters at the Royal Palace.

Urging a quick end to the sanctions, Mr. Demirel warned that "if Iraq continues to be isolated, its territorial integrity will be hard to maintain."

Though he stressed Turkey would not act alone to end the sanctions on Iraq, the Turkish president said, "we do believe that the sanctions should be lifted ... and Iraq should be part of the international community."

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(Continued on page 7)

Israeli cabinet approves W. Bank handover deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's government on Sunday unanimously approved a pact handing over five areas of authority in the West Bank to Palestinians but a weekend guerrilla attack fuelled Israeli concern at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's rule.

Mr. Arafat in the past had relied in security chiefs keen to crack down on militants. On Saturday the Palestinian authority he heads condemned Friday's attack and said the killers would be tracked down.

Palestinian police also carried out identity checks in Rafah refugee camp.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freij Abu Medien on Sunday condemned the attack and said action would be taken to track down the perpetrators.

Mr. Rabin also ruled out sealing off the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the wake of the attack, during the weekly cabinet meeting.

The cabinet unanimously approved the deal transferring civilian powers to Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank — despite a call from the rightwing opposition Likud to freeze the handover after Friday's attack.

Asked if the Palestinian police would take action to find the militants responsible, he said: "Yes, it is their duty

Sunday that employers who took on illegal Palestinian workers should be arrested.

Military roadblocks were set up along the road between Khan Yunis and Rafah, and soldiers with lists of suspects searched cars on Sunday.

Palestinian police also carried out identity checks in Rafah refugee camp.

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Full-blown row erupts between Algeria, Morocco

Combined agency dispatches

SIMMERING TENSION between Maghreb African neighbours Algeria and Morocco has erupted into a full-blown dispute over entry visas, with Algeria closing the border and newspapers on both sides trading insults.

With diplomats predicting that the rift will further set back dreams of a Maghreb common market, Algeria's newspapers reacted angrily on Sunday to Morocco's decision to demand entry visas.

One Algerian newspaper accused King Hassan of trying to humiliate Algerians. Others took the debate further by denouncing smuggling of arms, drugs and "other subversive items" across the disputed Western Sahara.

There is still an "illegally occupied country," in Africa, Mr. Zeroual said, referring to the area over which the two countries came close to fighting a war in 1975, as Algiers backed pro-independence Sahrawis pitted against Moroccan forces.

Morocco imposed the controls first, after two Algerians were arrested Friday and accused of plotting attacks against banks, the security forces and citizens.

Morocco arrested the pair during a manhunt for robbers with Algerian accents who sprayed the lobby of a Marrakesh hotel with gunfire on Wednesday, killing two Spanish tourists.

Algeria's Foreign Ministry summoned Morocco's ambassador Sunday to formally protest "harassment" suffered by Algerians in Morocco.

Algerian media have reported accounts of indiscriminate sweeps by Moroccan forces.

"Everything points to... the risk of a rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries," the daily Le Matin said.

after Algeria announced the "temporary" closure of the land border with Morocco following fit-for-far orders by both countries requiring entry visas for each other's nationals.

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(Continued on page 7)



Turkish President Suleiman Demirel gestures as he answers a question during a joint press conference His Majesty King Hussein held

Jordanian moves help peace process — King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday progress on the Jordanian track of the Arab-Israeli peace talks would push the Middle East peace process forward.

The King said the opportunities available for the Syrians and the Lebanese, considering their very special relationship, "are more than those available to us."

"It does not make sense for us to wait until all issues are resolved because this country is targeted and has suffered and tolerated more than any other country," he said.

The King stressed that the Arab parties concerned had all started from the same point and at the same time in a serious endeavour to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The King described the beginning of the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks as good, adding that there were no negative things despite the impression that the first round of talks did not yield results.

"Practically, the first round of Jordanian-Israeli talks have yielded results in terms of agreement on the methodology of work during the forthcoming stages, particularly in relation to issues dealing with the delineation of boundaries and environment," the King said.

"Jordan provided an umbrella to the Palestinian people to speak on their own behalf and act according to their own wish until they charted their own path, "which we blessed and supported," the King said.

Following that Jordan started discussing its own issues, including territorial and water rights and the right of Jordanians to live a decent life, he said.

The King stressed the unity

of the Jordanian family irrespective of origins and birthplace.

"Jordan is the home of free men, it is the country to which Arab brethren and others have turned in different eras and circumstances," he said.

The King added that Jordan would continue to be a home for the "muhajireen and Ansar".

Those who immigrated with the Prophet and those who supported him after migration from Mecca to Medina to spread the message of Islam "in such circumstances allow any one to select between staying or leaving by his own volition."

The King warned against any attempts to tamper with national unity.

On Jordan's relations with Arab countries, King Hussein said relations with Qatar and Oman were excellent, adding that relations with other Arab countries were on the way to normalcy.

The King said Jordan's relations with Qatar were based on solid grounds, mutual confidence and genuine desire to achieve cooperation.

The King expressed regret over the failure to convene an Arab summit, "particularly at these critical and difficult circumstances."

King Hussein voiced hope that the suffering of Iraqi

(Continued on page 7)

Dead Sea negotiations advance Jordan Valley development plans

Combined agency dispatches

JORDANIAN AND ISRAELI delegates ended talks at the Dead Sea Spa hotel on Sunday, their first on Jordanian soil since the two neighbours signed a pact last month ending a 46-year state of war.

More than 10 committees of experts discussed issues ranging from trade and tourism to security and water to keep up momentum in their talks and deal with minute details to ensure a final peace treaty lasts. They will resume talks on Monday.

Jordan's chief delegate Fayez Al Tarawneh told reporters the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli committee which also met to discuss the issue in place by the end of September for a joint multi-billion-dollar master plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley separating their countries.

Referring to combatting drugs, Dr. Tarawneh said that the subject had been discussed in the previous meeting. "There is a good prospect for cooperation in this field because of the U.S. representation in the same committee," he added.

In discussing the water resources, whether those of the Jordan or the Yarmouk River or the underground water resources, we have first to define each party's share in the manner in which the water will reach Jordan," Dr. Tarawneh said.

On tourism, he said that the three sides have visualized practical steps for cooperation in tourism.

The Jordanian private tourist sector will on Monday submit ideas to the Israeli side about promoting cooperation in this regard.

These are basic issues and for Jordan they are among the top priorities in the current negotiations which will continue in Washington on Aug. 31, said Dr. Tarawneh.

"When we speak of a future peace treaty," Dr. Tarawneh added, "it should

be comprehensive, providing clear solutions for all these problems."

The Israeli side has yet to present its views concerning the demarcation of borders and, hopefully this will be done during the current session, Dr. Tarawneh said.

Referring to the water issue, Dr. Tarawneh said the three sides had reached a common agreement on discussing this issue as provided for in the joint statement that followed the meetings at Wadi Araba in July.

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Cairo says Muslim critics of conference misled by Vatican

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian authorities have stepped up the war of words against Muslim fundamentalists opposed to the U.N. world population conference, accusing them of being misled by the Vatican.

Egyptian Population Minister Maher Mahran said the fundamentalists "never read" the draft working document for the conference which they had bitterly attacked.

His accusation came as the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group) warned foreigners Saturday to stay away from the conference, due to be held in Cairo from Sept. 5 to 13, and claimed the murder of a Spanish teenager.

"The fundamentalists 'got their information from their writings and its attack on the conference,'" said Mr. Mahran.

The conference is expected to be attended by 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries, including heads of state or government.

The Egyptian government hoped that by hosting the conference it could promote the image of a peace-loving, democratic country and a safe tourist destination.

But its plans were undermined when gunmen attacked a tourist mini-bus Friday near Sohag in southern Egypt, killing a 13-year-old Spanish boy and wounding his father and mother. Gamaa, Egypt's main armed Islamic militant group, later claimed the attack.

The Vatican sparked a controversy when it charged that the conference's draft resolution condoned abortion, homosexuality and extramarital sex.

Muslim scholars in Egypt — both moderate and radical

— followed suit, calling it the "devil's" conference, which would eventually destroy the Muslim world because it was based on principles that violated Islamic ethics.

The Gamaa said in a statement that the forum had been rejected by the Egyptian people and the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Al Azhar.

And the group warned that "foreigners taking part in the contentious conference" put their lives at risk.

According to Al Azhar, the draft working document should be revised so that it contains nothing that runs counter to Islamic law.

Mr. Mahran dismissed the allegations.

"All the accusations are wrong. The document is a masterpiece, a work of excellence... to solve the problem of poverty and unemployment in the whole world, particularly in developing countries," he said.

Mr. Mahran stressed that the draft ruled out abortion as a means of family planning, and made "no mention at all" of homosexuality or "lesbian and extramarital sex."

The draft resolution calls for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies and reducing abortion rates, but recommends that women should be given reliable information on abortions and that the operation should be safe.

It also says information on safe sex should be available to prevent the spread of sexual diseases and curb unwanted pregnancies.

But Mr. Mahran said Muslim scholars had zeroed in on the document's terminology, which when translated literally carried connotations unacceptable in Egypt's conservative society.

The literal translation of "sex education" was clumsy, Mr. Mahran said, because

"the word 'sex' has a pornographic colour in Egyptian Arabic."

"It could have been very well translated as 'family health education' or 'physiology of reproduction,' which would have passed off better."

He said the translation had inflamed Egypt's Islamic press, which carried front-page headlines such as "Sex will now be taught in our schools."

But school textbooks carried explanations about human reproduction, "so what are they objecting to?" Mr. Mahran protested.

Another problem had arisen over the expression "sexual health in families and individuals."

Muslim scholars missed the point that "a wife is an individual, and she has problems different to those of a man," Mr. Mahran said. Instead they believed that "individual" meant "outside the framework of marriage."

Recommendations that adolescents should be given information about safe sex had also enraged Muslim scholars.

They interpreted it as condoning teenage sex out of wedlock, "which is a problem we don't have in Egypt," Mr. Mahran said.

However, Egypt does have teenage pregnancies, and despite a law banning marriage under the age of 18, national statistics show that some girls are married off as young as 15.

Mr. Mahran said Egypt ruled out abortion except when the mother's life was at risk, and prohibited homosexuality and extramarital sex.

In any case, the conference's resolutions would not be binding on any country, but "each country can choose to use what is appropriate," Mr. Mahran said.



"ILLEGAL WORKERS": Israeli policemen hold Palestinians at the Russian Compound in Jerusalem for not being in possession of "Israeli permissions" to work. The Palestinians were rounded up after an attack on the occupied Jerusalem for not being in possession of "Israeli permissions" to work. (AFP photo)

Battle to enforce Islamic law shifts to Egyptian courts

CAIRO (AP) — If Muslim fundamentalists get their way, one of Cairo's more colourful features will soon disappear — enormous movie posters that loom above the streets featuring scantily clad heroines and snorting villains.

Fundamentalists are suing to have the ads declared a violation of Islamic law. They are also going after alcohol, gambling, belly dancing and even the interest rates charged by banks.

Islamic extremists have been revolting against the secular government for 2½ years, and the violence has left more than 400 people dead. Five suspected extremists and a police officer were killed in a shootout Saturday, a day after radicals opened fire on a tour bus, killing a Spanish boy.

Lawyers in the case argue Mr. Abu Zeid's scholarly writings show he has renounced his Islamic faith and therefore, under Sharia, can no longer remain married to his Muslim wife.

Education Minister Hussein BahaaEddine says a key part of his now-defunct dress code — requiring parental consent for school girls to wear a veil — resulted because militant teachers coerced some girls to put on head scarves.

"Many people are afraid to report such actions," he said, complaining that an "extremist tide" was threatening Egypt.

The fundamentalists' suit maintained the dress code interfered with religious conscience because school uniforms for girls ages six to 11 did not cover the hair and neck.

An administrative court overturned the dress code ruling last week, saying it involved an issue of personal freedom that could only be decided by legislation.

In the movie poster case, the fundamentalists' evidence includes posters that are tame by Western standards. In one, an actress is showing cleavage; in another, the actress is wearing a short night-gown.

The suit to ban next week's U.N. International Conference on Population and Development charges that its draft proposal advocates abortion and free sex, in violation of Sharia. A ruling is expected Tuesday but most doubt the court will buy the argument.

Sheikh Yousef Al Badri, an adviser to the fundamentalists, believes they must keep filing religious cases even if the lose in secular courts.

ists are using the courts because they cannot win on the political front.

"It is the right of every citizen to go to the judiciary, but their goal is not to achieve legal or judicial gains," he said. "It is a form of political propaganda and increasing pressure to Islamicize the state's institutions."

A suit against Nasr Abu Zeid, a University of Cairo literature professor, shows how far the fundamentalists will go to intervene in private lives.

Lawyers in the case argue Mr. Abu Zeid's scholarly writings show he has renounced his Islamic faith and therefore, under Sharia, can no longer remain married to his Muslim wife.

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Hamas member overcomes handicap to marry

JABALIYA, the Gaza Strip (AFP) — A Palestinian Hamas activist who was declared clinically dead after carrying out an anti-Israeli attack celebrated his recovery Saturday by getting married.

Salah Mustapha Ali Osman, 23, was seriously wounded a year ago when he and two other Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) fighters attacked a bus in East Jerusalem, killing two Israeli soldiers.

Mr. Osman was in a coma for months and first Israeli and then Palestinian doctors declared there was no hope.

But he began to recover slowly in May, and despite serious handicaps he married a Palestinian woman in her 20s from the Jabaliya refugee camp.

Hamas, which treats Mr. Osman as a hero, paid all the wedding costs and funded his computer studies.

Mr. Osman's father, known as Abu Rali, told how he went to the woman's family to ask for her hand in marriage for his son, warning them how badly handicapped he was.

"She accepted without hesitating," Abu Rali said.

Mr. Osman, a member of Ezzedin Al Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, was one of three fighters who killed two Israelis in the July 1 bus attack and took a car passenger hostage.

The two fighters were killed while Osman was hit by several bullets, including one which lodged in his head.

He spent six weeks in a coma in two Israeli hospitals, and when doctors said he could not regain consciousness and be questioned by police he was transferred to Shifa hospital in Gaza.

"The Palestinian doctors told me there was no hope and he had only 48 hours to live. The family sat by his bedside and waited for him to die," said Mr. Osman's father.

"But he survived. After two months he started coming out of his coma and began to drink, but he was totally paralysed and could not speak. He fought off death with all his strength."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mestiri leader threatened by Afghans faction

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Mahmoud Mestiri, the former Tunisian foreign minister leading U.N. attempts to end the Afghan conflict, has received death threats from an Afghan group, diplomatic sources said here Sunday. Mr. Mestiri is in Islamabad, and Pakistan authorities have stepped up security around him, the sources said. But the United Nations office in Islamabad refused to confirm or deny the reports. The name of the group threatening Mr. Mestiri was not known. But a diplomat said: "This is an attempt to undermine the peace process that the United Nations is setting underway. They are trying to warn the United Nations to stay out of this." Mr. Mestiri started the U.N. peace initiative earlier this year. But it is an open secret that certain Afghan faction leaders are hostile to his aims.

Relatives of soldiers killed in Gulf protest

LONDON (AP) — The father of a British soldier killed by U.S. fire in the Gulf war complained Saturday that he was ignored while Washington paid compensation to officers killed over Iraq in peacekeeping. The U.S. government announced Friday that it will pay \$100,000 payments to each of the families of the 11 who were killed in the mistaken downing of two U.S. army helicopters in northern Iraq on April 14. The victims included two British officers, Major Harry Shapland, 28, and Colonel Jonathan Swann, 51. "Our opinion is that it stinks," said Mick Thompson, whose 19-year-old son Lee and eight other British soldiers were killed in February 1991 when U.S. fired on their armoured cars in action in Iraq. "You have nine squaddies killed by so-called friendly fire... and our government refused as a verdict of unlawful killing to press it any further. As soon as some officers get killed they think to hold an inquiry. It's just so disgusting that they should treat rank in death," Mr. Thompson said. Denis Macshane, an opposition Labour Party lawmaker who has taken up the cause of the nine soldiers, said Saturday that the British government should compensate the families, then ask for reimbursement from Washington. "This is a disgraceful example of the unfair and double standard Britain in which the government moves swiftly on behalf of the officer class but does nothing for private soldiers who join the army escape from the dole queue," Mr. Macshane said.

Police hold 55 for medicine trafficking

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police arrested 55 people for trafficking in vital medicine in the Iranian capital, a newspaper reported. The conservative Ressalat said the suspects were accused of selling scarce medicine on sidewalks in southern and central Tehran. Police also seized more than 150 tonnes of medicine and medical supplies which the traffickers had hoarded. Iranian hospitals and drug stores have been suffering a serious shortage of medicine for the past year. Authorities say the shortage has been aggravated by profiteers who divert the medicine most in demand to the black market for sale at exorbitant prices. The government allocates more than \$400 million each year to subsidise medicine, but the amount is hardly enough to meet the growing demand.

Iran names top judicial officials

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Chief Justice Mohammad Yazdi has appointed a new prosecutor-general and chairman of the supreme court, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Mr. Yazdi named Hojatolislam Mortaza Moqtada as the new prosecutor-general. He was formerly supreme court chairman. Mr. Moqtada, a moderate regarded as close to Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, replaced the radical Abolhassan Mussavi-Tabrizi, who became Mr. Yazdi's chief advisor. Ayatollah Mohammad-Mohammadi Ghilani was appointed chairman of the supreme court. He was previously a member of the Council of Guardians, a body set up to ensure that laws conform with the constitution and Islam. Last Sunday Mr. Yazdi, 65, was reappointed chief justice for another five years with the task of reorganising the judicial system. Ayatollah, who appoints the chief justice, said he wanted to ensure that "opportunist and the corrupt are removed from key posts" in the judicial system. Parliament authorised the streamlining of the judiciary in April, aiming particularly to clarify the role of revolutionary courts.

U.S. envoy in Sudan to discuss peace

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A U.S. envoy had talks with Sudanese officials in Khartoum Saturday on prospects for progress in peace talks between the Sudanese government and southern rebels, the Sudanese News Agency SUNA said. The visit by Envoy Melissa Wells came two days after Sudan called for an adjournment of the next round of negotiations with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) set for Sept. 5 in Nairobi. Shortly after her arrival, Ms. Wells held talks with a Sudanese foreign ministry official, Methiang Malwal, and the spokesman of the government delegation, Ali Al Haj Mohammad, SUNA reported. During her two-day visit, she is also due to hold talks with the head of the government delegation, Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, and with Ibrahim Abu Oaf, responsible for rescue operations in the south, SUNA said. Ms. Wells last visited Khartoum in June to discuss aid for refugees in southern Sudan. Khartoum called Thursday for a postponement of the next round of talks between the government and the SPLA, brokered by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD). Ali Al Haj Mohammad proposed instead that IGADD, which includes Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, use "shuttle diplomacy" to negotiate between the two parties.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Home News



Crown Prince to visit Japan in spring



AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will visit Japan in spring in an effort to promote Jordanian-Japanese relations, it was announced yesterday.

On this occasion, Jordan will hold a week-long event aimed to give a strong boost to bilateral relations and to strengthen ties at the political, economic, cultural, scientific and touristic levels, a official spokesman said. The events will include a conference on Jordanian-Japanese relations as well as cultural and artistic expositions, shows and media activities, the spokesman added.

The events will be co-organized by both governments and relevant Jordanian and Japanese institutions.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has formed a high-level national committee comprising members from the private and public sectors to oversee the planning and organization of the "Jordan Week" in Tokyo, according to the spokesman.

The committee will be headed by Mazen Armuti,

visor to the Crown Prince and president of the Institute of Diplomacy.

It also includes: Wasef

Azar, of the Business Bank; Haidar Murad, of the Chamber of Commerce; Mohammad Maqsi of the University of Jordan; the undersecretaries of the ministries of Planning, Culture, Information and Tourism; Munib Toukan

Princess Zein to inaugurate First Arab Twins Festival

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein, a twin herself of her sister Princess Aisha, Friday will inaugurate the First Arab Twins Festival.

According to festival director Hassan Abu Jada, the idea of holding such a festival emerged when he discovered that most foreign countries have societies and organizations which cater to twins and their interests.

Several twins from Iraq and Syria will participate, in addition to foreign residents of Jordan who are

twins. The total number of twins expected to attend the one-day event is 228.

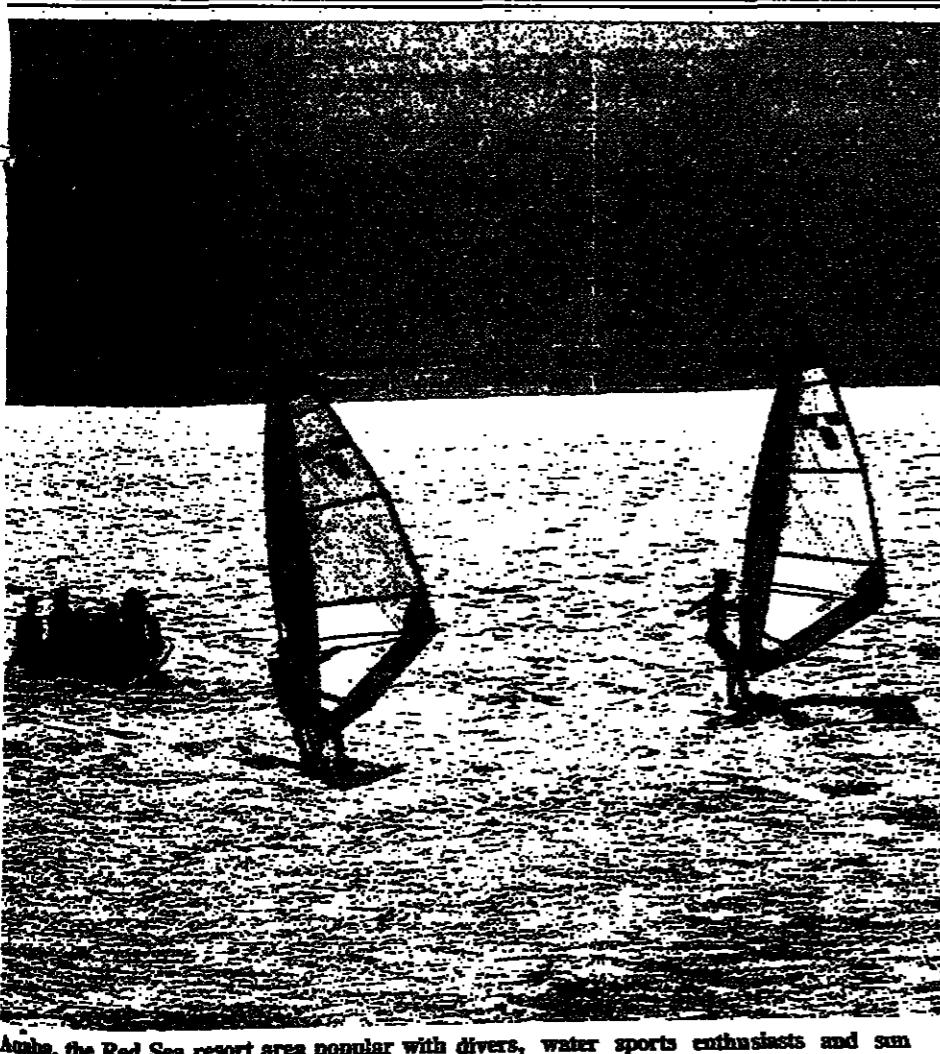
The idea was "welcomed" by most of the twins contacted although some declined to participate for religious reasons, said Mr. Jada.

In addition, he said several twins came to register on their own when they heard about the festival.

"To our surprise, two twins passed the age of 13," said Mr. Jada.

The participating twins will present various festivities including poetry recitals, guitar performances and their talents on Friday afternoon.

By giving twins a chance to meet "we have bigger



Aqaba, the Red Sea resort area popular with divers, water sports enthusiasts and sun worshippers.

SSC allocates JD 3m to improve tourist site facilities, services

AMMAN (Petra) — In view of the current fast-paced activity of the tourism industry and the flood of visitors to the archaeological sites and other attractions at Petra, Aqaba, Amman, the Dead Sea and Karak, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) has allocated JD 3 million to improve its services and facilities at these sites, according to a senior SSC official.

Saleem Bedour, director of the Tourism Investments Department at the SSC, said that the funds were used to add 67 rooms and a new dining room to the Petra Forum Hotel and 44 rooms with a new dining area to the Petra Resthouse.

Work is nearing completion at a prefabricated complex with 66 rooms at the Dead Sea Resthouse, he said. A conference hall seating 500 people and a swimming pool are also part of the new complex, according to Mr. Bedour.

Stating that investments in the tourism industry were the most lucrative business for the SSC, Mr. Bedour said that such investments yielded JD 1,016 million in profit in the first half of 1994.

In 1993 investments in tourism earned the SSC JD 2,425,124, nearly 14.5 per cent of the total investments in the tourism industry, Mr. Bedour said.

He added that the SSC's total investments in the tourism industry are at almost JD 21 million, of which JD 16.75 million is invested in hotels and resthouses and the rest in lands whose value has doubled recently, especially in areas like Petra, Aqaba and the Dead Sea.

Denying that the SSC was facing losses from its investments in its 10 resthouses, Mr. Bedour said that, combined, these resthouses yielded a profit of JD 68,630

Motorola to get cellular phone deal

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has taken a decision in principle to award a contract for Jordan's first cellular phone system to a local company which will be drawing on equipment and technology from the American communications giant Motorola, informed sources said Sunday.

"The Cabinet has decided to award the contract and it is going to the local company affiliated with Motorola," said a highly-informed source. "Formal letters are in the process of being issued."

According to Motorola sources outside Jordan, the company has not received a formal notification from the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company, which, under the guidelines set by the government, will be the official body dealing in all contract-related matters.

When it invited offers, the government excluded direct offers from international companies, saying every offer should be submitted through local firms.

Subsequently, some of the international bidders made arrangements with existing companies or aligned themselves with new entities set up for the sole purpose of the contract and its execution.

"Motorola has not been officially informed about any granting of the concession," said a source. "The source noted, however, that there would not be any direct communication to Motorola by the Jordanian government."

Independent sources also confirmed that the contract was being awarded to Motorola from among seven offers submitted in April. The Motorola offer, made through the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company, was said to be JD 38 million for the con-

cession, almost twice that of the second highest bidder.

But,

the final amount of the contract will be determined after negotiations, which, in principle, should be concluded in four weeks after an initial letter is issued to the beneficiary of the contract. As of late last week, this had not been done — inviting the company for negotiations — according to a Motorola source.

Ahmad Nawaifi,

director-general of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), was quoted in the local press as saying this week that the government had taken a decision to grant the contract, but he did not identify the company.

Other international companies which submitted offers through Jordanian companies included Cellular One and Ninx International, both of the United States, Telecom Finland,

Millicom of Luxembourg, SFR of France and Cable and Wireless of Britain.

Details of the offers were not available.

Omnitel Finland helped the TCC evaluate the offers.

Motorola, an American corporation is on the blacklist of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office since it is doing business in Israel, but in the wake of the new mood for peace in the region, this element is apparently being overlooked, diplomats said.

However, the system, expected to be operational by 1996, will mark a major turning point in bringing advanced technology in communications to Jordan after a span of more than eight years.

Jordan had to freeze all telecommunications projects when it faced a severe economic crisis in 1988-89.

Plans were revived last year, but the TCC has much catching up to do to meet the mounting demands.

Education minister backs pay raise for teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Education Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday announced that he was backing teachers' demands for better pay and has already submitted a related memorandum to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

In a statement issued on the second day of school reopenings, the minister said the development of the education process in Jordan cannot fully be achieved without creating incentives for teachers.

A comfortable, material and psychological climate should be created for the men and women teachers who constitute the pillar of development in the local society, Mr. Rawabdeh said in his statement.

The first accident, which occurred early Sunday morning, involved a bus carrying eight passengers returning from Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), the reports said.

According to the report, the bus driver, identified as Husni A., lost control of his vehicle, slammed into the rail dividing the highway and rolled over.

All eight passengers, including seven Swedish nationals in their late 20s, were taken to King Hussein Medical Centre for treatment and were listed in good condition.

Also on Sunday, in Madaba, five people were injured when a cement mixer and a water tanker collided on the Amman-Madaba road.

The report said that the cement mixer, driven by Abdul Rahim A., and carrying three passengers, was coming from Jabal Bani Hamida and speeding down hill towards Thibian. At the same time a water tanker, driven by Eid F., was climbing up the road towards Jabal Bani Hamida.

A traffic official who investigated the accident told the Jordan Times that the cement mixer driver lost control of his vehicle and started swerving left and right on the one-lane winding road and collided head-on with the water tanker.

According to the CDD report, the people in the cement mixer compartment were trapped inside, but they were rescued by a CDD unit and rushed to Madaba Hospital along with the water tanker driver.

In the first eight months of this year, Jordan exported 3,000 tonnes of tomato paste, valued at \$2.5 million, to different countries; of that amount, Italy alone imported 2,000 tonnes, Mr. Nasser said.

Last year, Italy imported 10,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomato paste, followed by Iraq with 5,500 tonnes and Russia with 2,000 tonnes.

Other major importers of the Kingdom's tomato paste are Hungary, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, according to Mr. Nasser.

Total exports of the product last year amounted to 20,000 tonnes, earning the Kingdom some \$13 million.

Mr. Nasser said that JAMPCO expects to conclude new contracts with different importers soon, adding that JAMPCO was careful to buy all or most of the tomato crop surplus from local producers.

He said that the company purchased a total of 76,888 tonnes of tomatoes at a cost of JD 3.8 million during 1993, against JD 8.25 million in 1992.

He said JAMPCO operates a processing plant at Al Aqaba which has two tomato paste factories. The complex, he said, is considered the largest of its kind in the Middle East, producing about 1,250 tonnes per day.

The company has a tomato paste processing plant at Ghor Safi near the southern part of the Dead Sea with a total capacity of 350 tonnes per day, Mr. Nasser said.

In addition, he said, JAMPCO owns 25 per cent of a tomato processing plant operated by Shafa company in the northern badia. The plant, which cost JD 6 million to build, has a 750-tonne daily capacity.

order to raise their standard of living and provide them with incentives to be creative in their work.

In his memorandum to the prime minister, Mr. Rawabdeh proposed that teachers in general be granted special allowances, that the current allowances for teachers be raised from 10 per cent to 50 per cent on their salaries, that teachers be given priority over other employees in housing and urban development projects, that the government allot state-owned lands in villages and cities for teachers' housing units and that the Ministry of Education's employees fund be increased with a JD 20 million grant.

Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh

Italy is Jordan's biggest tomato paste importer

AMMAN (Petra) — Italy currently tops the list of importers of Jordanian processed tomato pastes from the Jordanian Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), according to company Director General Khalid Al Nasser.

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CAMEL LINES DSR CMA Red Sea Express Lines

The Joint Service of three Lines, namely Camel, a subsidiary of Andrew Weir Shipping - London, D.S.R of Rostock of Germany and C.M.A. of Marseilles - France, which for many years have been a dedicated container shipping service to and from Europe and the Mediterranean to Aqaba, has continued despite the four years of blockade of Aqaba Gulf to serve the Jordanian Port directly and without transhipment at other Red Sea ports, and despite continuous losses incurred as a result of strict compliance with the harsh Guidelines imposed by the Inspection Authorities, takes this opportunity to present to:

His Majesty King Hussein

&

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

sincere thanks and deep appreciation for their efforts in bringing about the lifting of the embargo on Aqaba Gulf. The Joint Service of R.S.E. also extends its appreciation for the sincere efforts made by H.E. the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Finance. Special thanks are extended to the Dir. Gen. of Aqaba Port Authority, his staff and labour, for all the facilities offered to the ships of R.S.E. in discharging and loading containers, a fact that has contributed positively to the continuing service to Aqaba. On this occasion the R.S.E. seizes this opportunity to extend special thanks to the Chairman, Board Members and Manager of the Shipping Agents Association for the distinguished role they have played and for the relentless efforts contributed on both the local and international level, all of which added considerably to assisting the Jordanian Government to achieve this task.

His Majesty King Hussein
&
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Bosnian Serbs set for isolation

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs voted for the second day Sunday in makeshift referendum expected to underline their defiant isolation by rejecting the latest plan to divide their republic.

International moves to confirm the quarantine of Bosnia's Serbs by posting observers on the Rump Yugoslav border to oversee Belgrade's blockade of its former protégés were to continue with the arrival in the Serbian capital of Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

His meetings with Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic will be the first in a month by a leading politician from the five powers that drew up the peace plan.

Mr. Milosevic has joined the West and Russia in denouncing Bosnian Serb leaders for rejecting the peace deal, stopping a trade embargo on his ethnic kin whose 28-month war effort he inspired and actively supported.

Mr. Kozyrev is expected to offer Mr. Milosevic an easing of the sanctions — imposed on Rump Yugoslavia for backing Serbs in the ethnic conflict in neighbouring Bosnia — as a reward for cooperation in pressing for an end to the war.

Mr. Milosevic has so far refused to allow international monitors to check his blockade is thorough. A similar measure against Bosnia's Serbs announced in May 1993 proved a facade and international scepticism lingers.

Referendum officials, ignoring the dispute over figures, said turnout has been high. First results were expected within 48 hours of polls closing.

Bosnian Serbs, a third of the pre-war population and now controlling 70 per cent of the country, say the proposed peace plan dividing Bosnia roughly in half between Serbs and a Muslim and Croat alliance forces them to give too much away.

They object to handing back to Muslims land won by their superior war machine and argue the plan involves dividing their territory, leaving it indefensible and economically weak, a position described by diplomats as illogical.

The referendum will worsen the Bosnian impasse, diplomats say, with no vote forcing reluctant Western nations to contemplate unpalatable measures to force peace on the Serbs.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has warned he will ask the Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia's

Electoral organisers said a million people would vote in 82 polling stations, but independent observers suggest only 750,000 live in Serb-held Bosnia, with nearly half below voting age.

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China accused of taking organs from the executed convicts for transplants

BELING (R) — An international human rights group accused China Monday of using organs from executed convicts for transplants without their consent and said some prisoners were kept alive until their organs had been removed.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch/Asia called on foreign governments to ban their citizens from obtaining transplants in China and urged foreign firms to stop taking part in state-sponsored organ-transplant programmes.

Testimony from Chinese and jurists indicate the practice of using the organs from executed prisoners was common, the group said in its report.

"An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 organs (mainly kidneys and corneas) from prisoners each year are used in this manner, with government officials reportedly receiving priority in their allocation," the group said.

Chinese judicial and health authorities declined comment on the report.

The group demanded China ban further use of prisoners' organs, allow the United Nations to investigate its execution and organ procurement procedures, and reverse an alarming trend toward the use of the death penalty.

Although required by law, the consent of prisoners is rarely sought, the group said.

"The report clearly demonstrates how any notion of prisoner 'consent' to organ donation in China is absurd," the group said.

"The lack of judicial safeguards in China guarantees that many people will be wrongfully executed and become unwitting organ donors."

"Some executions are known to have been deliberately botched to ensure that prisoners were not yet dead when their organs were removed."

The use of condemned

prisoners' organs involves members of the medical profession in the actual execution process, in violation of international standards of medical ethics, the report said.

"Chinese doctors participate in pre-execution medical tests, matching of donors with recipients and scheduling of operations, often on a first-paid, first-served basis," the group said.

"Surgeons are commonly present at execution grounds to perform on-site removal of organs."

It said a 1984 Chinese government directive ordered that "the use of bodies or organs of executed criminals must be kept strictly secret."

China does not release figures for the number of executions it performs each year, but Western diplomats and monitoring groups estimate that well over 1,000 people annually are put to death by a shot in the back of the neck.

In all, arrest warrants have been issued for some 200 people in the past two months, making the roundup the harshest since Mr. Kim Young-Sam took office in February of 1993, when he enjoyed unprecedented popularity.

MPs earn an annual package of 193,000 rand (\$33,000). They want a further 3,000 rand (\$300) constituency allowance.

Average incomes for factory workers range from 10,000 rand (\$3,600) to 36,000 rand (\$10,000) a year.

They are holding boisterous rallies across the country, joining mainstream political parties and speaking out in an attempt to shoot down plans for a new national gun registration system.

The gun defenders are working within political parties to soften support for the tougher gun laws, which are expected later this fall.

"It is a very strong lobby, most notably in Western Canada, said criminologist Neil Boyd at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver,

S. African politicians struggle to shed fat cat image

JOHANNESBURG (R) — African National Congress (ANC) parliamentarians, struggling to deliver on election promises of "a better life for all", are trying to justify fat salaries in the face of outrage from the South African public.

An ANC National Assembly member told Reuters Sunday they would set up a commission to look into the matter.

"It is an exaggeration that we are getting fat cat salaries. I am sure that the commission which will be appointed soon will prove that," he said.

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A British U.N. soldier gestures towards the ruins of the Tito Bridge, a Mostar landmark, which was destroyed by UNPROFOR forces.

The old bridge, which was the only connection across the River Neretva, will be replaced by a new one to be built by Spanish and British U.N. soldiers (AFP photo)

with Bosnian government officials there.

"The purpose of their trip is to determine by inspection that the safety assurances for the return of the refugees currently in the (U.N.) sector north of Croatia will be met," Mr. Risley said. "It's a fact-finding mission to determine that security will be provided and that the refugees can return to their homes."

Seoul's crackdown on the left continues

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea is continuing its arrests of dissidents and leftists in the severest crackdown since dissident-turned-president Kim Young-Sam took power 18 months ago.

The crackdown, which has netted union leaders, professors and Socialists, has been confused by a disputed university president's claim that the dissident movement has been systematically infiltrated by North Korean-trained agents.

In all, arrest warrants have been issued for some 200 people in the past two months, making the roundup the harshest since Mr. Kim Young-Sam took office in February of 1993, when he enjoyed unprecedented popularity.

And just as a new underground freedom of discussion

about North Korea blossomed with the approach of the first North-South summit between Kim Young-Sam and Kim Il-Sung, Kim Il-Sung died.

At first South Koreans were glued to their television screens watching rare live telecasts from the North and listening to the unprecedented sound of Radio Pyongyang broadcasting news of the ageing Stalinist leader's death.

Then the crackdown began.

Although Mr. Kim Young-Sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton — expressed regret that the summit was off, others advocating condominiums to the North, including some Southern opposition parliamentarians, were quickly silenced.

Canada gun owners form political force

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian gun owners, aggravated over years of stringent controls, are forging a potent political force similar to the U.S. National Rifle Association to block tighter restrictions.

They are holding boisterous rallies across the country, joining mainstream political parties and speaking out in an attempt to shoot down plans for a new national gun registration system.

The gun defenders are working within political parties to soften support for the tougher gun laws, which are expected later this fall.

President Nelson Mandela — annual package 750,000 rand (\$208,000) — responded by telling parliament that recommendations on salaries would soon be put up for debate.

British Columbia.

The aggressive tactics by gun advocates is patterned after the well-organised pressure applied in the United States by the NRA, although the Canadian lobby is not as well-funded.

Spurred by several high-profile slayings, Canada's Liberal government is considering everything from a national gun registration system to an outright ban on handguns.

In the past, the gun lobby here for the most part has had little input as Canadian lawmakers forged some of the strictest gun control laws in the world.

But the number of new anti-gun control groups has increased, with each determined to divide politicians before any new laws pass parliament.

"We have seen the number of new gun organisations almost double the last few months," said Wendy Cukier, president of the lobby group, Coalition for Gun Control.

"The gun lobby is not as powerful as the NRA in the U.S., but it certainly has influence out of proportion to its members," she said.

Prime minister Jean Chretien has promised tougher laws to control the estimated six million rifles and shotguns in the country and the more than one million restricted weapons such as handguns and semi-automatic rifles.

Rude Russian bootlegs shock romantic novelist

LONDON (R) — Romantic writer Barbara Cartland is aghast that Russian publishers have spiced up her coy novels by adding erotic pictures, Sunday's People newspaper said.

"They are cheap, disgusting and appalling contrivances," the prolific British author said of the pirated hardback editions. The books, with pictures of pouting nude women on the covers and inside, are being snapped up by Russians who expect a saucy read but instead get tame tales of romance full of glances and odd kisses, but no steamy encounters, the paper said.

He told the rally, which Mr. Cardenas supporters said was about half the size of his dissident campaign rally of more than 100,000 people two weeks ago, that the PRD would not carry out sit-in protests, takeovers of government buildings or marches as in the past, in order not to invite government repression.

"We do not want violence," he said.

Instead, Mr. Cardenas proposed legal challenges to the results of more than half of the 96,000 voting centres used in the election and the establishment of "truth commissions" across the country to document fraud against the PRD.

Residents of the town of Oaxaca told Reuters the town mayor threatened to expel anyone from town who voted against the PRI. The town voted for the PRI, according to official results.

Despite the irregularities, most observers agree the vote marked a big step for a state languishing on Mexico's fringes, its lush landscapes and poor Indians more reminiscent of neighbouring Guatemala than the rest of Mexico.

"Until now, Chiapas was the bastard of Mexico where

any abuse was tolerated as long as the PRI got votes," said U.S. anthropologist Ronald Nigh, who has studied the region's large Indian groups for 25 years.

"Today we cannot claim victory, but neither can we recognise the victory of anyone else," he said.

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A protest against fraud which he called last Monday in the same Zocalo Square attracted only about 15,000 people and Saturday's turnout also appeared to confirm the view of many analysts that Mr. Cardenas has not convinced most Mexicans the elections were truly fraudulent.

Film on my life fake India's 'bandit queen'

NEW DELHI (R) — A woman bandit whose story inspired a celebrated Indian film on Hindu caste brutality and exploitation of women says much of the movie is not based on facts and accuses its makers of exploiting her. "I wish they had killed me before they made the film," Phoolan Devi told Reuters. Bandit Queen, a movie on the 38-year-old woman recently freed on parole, was hailed at the Cannes and Edinburgh Film Festivals as a historic departure in Indian cinema. "With Bandit Queen, Indian cinema comes of age," said London's Evening Standard when it was shown at Cannes in May. "The way Italian cinema did in post-war years with Bicycle Thief of Japanese cinema with Seven Samurai in the 1950's. But Bandit Queen, shown to select audiences in Delhi this month, has yet to get a censor's certificate for release in India. Ms. Phoolan says she will oppose it. "I will appeal to the High Court to stop the censors from passing the film," she said, accusing director Shekhar Kapur and producer Sandeep Singh Bedi of dishonesty. Both say the movie is based on Ms. Phoolan's confessions to Mala Sen, who became a close friend in long meetings during Ms. Phoolan's 11 years in jail, and wrote a book and film script. She says the film is littered with factual errors, though she does not deny the mass rape which is central to its story. Ms. Phoolan has not seen the film and says Bedi and Kapur do not want to show it to her. "They have shown me naked to the press. People come to me and say I look very sexy. I find all this humiliating," she said in a weekend interview.

Japan's Hitachi claims tiniest video camera

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese electronics maker has developed the world's smallest video camera which can sit comfortably on the palm of a hand, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported Sunday. Hitachi Ltd made the prototype camera using a semiconductor chip instead of tape to store the video data. Chips have been used before in still electronic cameras, but the quantity of data needed to record moving pictures had previously made this impractical for video. Hitachi's camera uses compression techniques to squash the amount of data to one hundredth its original volume, then stores it on a 400-megabyte semiconductor memory — equivalent to 10,000 newspaper pages. This enables it to record 30 minutes of video. The company hopes advances in chip technology will help it reduce the camera's weight below 300 grammes (11 ounces). The camera, however, will not be on the market for another five years, when it should cost around 100,000 to 150,000 yen (\$1,000 to 1,500).

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Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1994

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Another milestone

TODAY MARKS another milestone in the Palestinian-Israeli peace relations when both sides sign the painstakingly negotiated accord on extending Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank. Under the so-called "early empowerment" accord hammered out in Egypt, Israel is supposed to hand over control over education, health, taxation, tourism and social welfare. These five spheres of control are not as inconsequential as they may appear at first glance. For all intents and purposes these newly-added authorities could pave the way for additional Palestinian sovereignty rights.

The most immediate result of today's signature of the accord on extended Palestinian authority, though, could be the setting of the stage for the redeployment of Israeli troops in the remaining Palestinian territories in preparation for Palestinian national elections scheduled to take place before the end of this year. Agreement on conditions under which such envisaged Palestinian elections could be held would be the real test of Israeli intentions on the future course of the Palestinian-Israeli peace front. The PLO is demanding and rightly so that Palestinian self-rule "parliamentary" elections be held freely. As long as Israeli soldiers are patrolling Palestinian cities and towns, any such elections would be a suspect. That is why an agreement on the "redeployment" of Israeli military personnel in the occupied areas is so essential to the success of the PLO-Israeli peace talks.

Still this would be only one side of the equation. An equally important dimension is the level of the PLO's adherence to pluralistic democracy and human rights when conducting the projected elections. It is perhaps too early for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to observe fully international norms on human rights since its authority is still at the embryonic stage and it has yet to consolidate its grip on power. Yet it is never too early to start the process of Palestinian democracy and respect for human rights especially when it comes to freedom of the press.

The PNA record is already blemished by the unexplained death of a Palestinian detainee and the closure of two newspapers. We trust these violations are mere aberrations and are not samples of more similar disrespect for human rights. The PLO is surely aware more than anybody else that it is constantly under the international microscope which can be expected to continue probing into Palestinian conduct on all levels. The upcoming Palestinian national elections must therefore be free from both Israeli presence and duress as well as from Palestinian disregard for international standards on human rights.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday demanded a closer measure of coordination of policies among Arab countries in general and between the Palestinian and Jordanians in particular in matters concerning the repatriation and compensation of the Palestinian refugees. Forty six years have elapsed since the start of the refugee tragedy but nothing has been done to serve them justice in implementation of U.N. resolutions, simply because Israel has been adamant in refusing to return the refugees to their homeland and due to the strong backing for such policy Israel has been getting from Western nations, said the paper. But, said the paper, despite the past 46 years of displacement and despite the U.S.-Israeli-British policies of incorporating the refugees in the neighbouring Arab states, the refugees question continues to be among the major sources of conflict in the Middle East. According to UNRWA figures, the number of refugees in Jordan alone has now risen to 1.93 million, of whom 20.5 per cent live in camps and Jordan has been shouldering additional economic political and social burdens since the 1948 war, said the paper. The international legitimacy, said the paper, remains only on paper as long as the question of the Palestinian refugees remains outstanding.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour tackled the question of unemployment, blaming its rising volume on the presence of guest workers in the Kingdom. Mere calls on businesses to expand or hope for new ones to open to provide opportunities is not enough as long as the labour market remains in chaos, said Mohammad Doud. It is not enough to force the non-Jordanians to abide by the Jordanian laws and pay the fees for their work permits. What is needed is to force all businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanians, said the writer. No guest worker should be employed unless the Ministry of Labour is well assured that Jordanians cannot fill the vacancy, said the writer.

Human Rights File

By Waleed Sadi

Abortion controversy to dominate the agenda of Cairo conference

THERE IS no doubt that the issue of abortion will dominate the discussions in the September World Conference on Population and Development. It is no accident that Cairo is hosting this highly important meeting since Egypt has one of the highest fertility rates in the world. There is no better country to demonstrate the organic link between population and development than Egypt.

Given its population explosion and its strong religious background, Egypt offers a fine example of how traditions and religious values could be on a collision course with economic, social and cultural developments.

Yet the fact remains that there are many religious communities which value the right to life more than the right to development and in this context there could be a clash of perspective and even interest. Human rights activists could be divided on this vexing issue with some arguing and quite forcefully, that the collective right to life cannot be secured in isolation from economic and social development. Against this backdrop, the individual right to life may appear in conflict with the collective right to development on all levels. The opposing school of thought would argue that this basic human right to life can be enjoyed and protected without sacrificing, in any way, shape or form, the overall economic development of any given country provided that the economic planning and implementation are executed properly and faithfully.

Many industrial countries suffer from negative population growth and are encouraging immigration to their societies in a bid to escalate rather than retard economic growth. The U.S., Canada and Australia, to name just a few examples, still have an active immigration policy in order to bolster their economic well-being and prosperity. On the other side of the pendulum sits countries such as China, India, Indonesia and Egypt, which clearly suffer from population increases. It would be interesting to probe into the question of whether any of these countries would have still had major economic problems had they adopted the kind of economic

strategies that served well the Western industrial world. The population problems of Egypt and Nigeria, for example, are not necessarily attributed to their population crisis. As a matter of fact, had such countries practised the kind of economic styles that served the West so well, their population problems would have been solved naturally. Still the prime issue for human rights is the right to life, which supersedes all other human rights, be they individual or collective. Immediately after conception, a fetus would acquire a body, soul and spirit, argues the Catholic Church. Without the need to delve in religious arguments, there is no doubt that a fetus is a form of life which is independent of the life of the mother or the father. This right, which human rights instruments try to protect, especially when the category of fetuses represents a vulnerable group of people who cannot defend themselves. There is always the unwanted fetuses whose rights clash with the right of the mother who might have become pregnant unwillingly, as a result of incest or rape. If life resulting from sexual violence can be terminated, there is no more credible reason not to terminate other unwanted fetuses. And if the life of a fetus becomes life threatening to the life of the mother, then a choice must be made something which entails the sacrifice of one life for another. I don't think anybody has all the perfect answers to all the dimensions associated with abortion. We kill soldiers belonging to an enemy state in order to defend the lives of our own military people and defend the country from aggression. A choice appears inevitable in all such situations. As the late U.S. President J.F. Kennedy once remarked, life is unfair by nature. Some young men are lucky enough to be posted in safe and secure areas of combat and others are arbitrarily chosen to engage the enemy in a bloody confrontation.

It would be interesting to see how the Cairo conference would deal with the abortion issue given its complexity and the inherent contradictions pertaining to it. One has to remain open-minded about the subject and amenable to sane and humane reasonings on both sides of the fence.

M. KAHIL



The need for multi-level peace making

By Maher J. Massis

IN THE past few years, our media and leaders have been very busy with the developments of the peace process.

Often the press has been characterised by ups and downs as certain events and issues either raised our hopes or subdued them. These ups and downs are quite natural in the face of a complicated and multi-dimensional peace process. But what is important to keep in mind is the bold decision taken by our leaders to vigorously pursue peace with Israel despite the difficulties, risks and uncertainty. However, what we are lacking at this stage in peace making is a multi-level peace process that is essential for reinforcing potentially successful peace agreement with Israel.

Before I elaborate on what multi-level peace making means, let me briefly review the significance of the multi-dimensionality of the current peace process.

Quite simply, a peace treaty may imply the absence of war between two parties. But a multi-dimensional peace refers to the final resolution of all outstanding issues that have collectively been the source of conflict between two countries. For instance, in the economic dimension, agreements on how to improve trade relations, expand tourism and develop the Jordan Rift Valley — could not lead to a peace treaty until other issues in other dimensions, such as the water issue, the return of Jordanian lands from Israel, demarcation of boundaries and national

security arrangements are resolved. In essence, the interconnectedness of diverse issues necessitates a multi-dimensional peace approach.

What we are currently lacking is the type of peace making that brings individual Jordanian and Israeli citizens together at different levels of society. From domestic non-government associations to the average individual citizen, interaction with corresponding elements of Israeli society would be beneficial. What this means is that we also have to make a brave decision with Israel despite the difficulties, risks and uncertainty.

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However, what we are lacking at this stage in peace making is a multi-level peace process that is essential for reinforcing potentially successful peace agreement with Israel.

It is our responsibility to take action that we strongly believe reinforces the will of our leaders and directs our younger generations towards a new probable reality that is characterised by security, peace, economic development and the spread of freedom and democracy. Of course, there are no guarantees. Our peace making efforts may fail. But what is worse than failure is not trying at all. Jordan does not exist in a vacuum frozen in time and space. The realities of change within it and around it must be well-conceived and responded to in a manner that sustains our national dignity while ensuring the attainment of long-term interests."

These few latter suggestions may be shocking to many people. But why should they? If we support our leaders' efforts in multi-dimensional peace making, and responded to in a man-

ner that sustains our national dignity while ensuring the attainment of long-term interests.

Our greatest intellectual challenge is to not dwell on the past glories and use those as a basis of proving the greatness of our civilisation. Indeed, we have a tremendous cultural history to be proud of. But do we want our children in the early part of the next century to think about the greatness of the Arab people only by reading their history books or do we want them to live it? We are in need of a new Arab awakening, a renaissance that generates positive thinking in a manner that focuses on our future potential by taking the necessary steps today. One of these steps is full peace and the other is democracy. We cannot have one without the other.

Apathy is indeed a cancerous disease of any civilised society. It slowly eats away at the very fabric that binds our extended Jordanian family. It slowly destroys the building blocks of our nation, and it leads to a collective consciousness based on stubborn ignorance and the fear of positive change. By taking action we are finding a cure for this cancer and we are rejuvenating the health of the nation. Multi-dimensional peace making and multi-level peace making are two values of the same heart.

The writer is a PhD candidate in political science at Houston University, the U.S. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Castro posing political threat to Clinton

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Bill Clinton, struggling to cope with Cuba's Fidel Castro, finds himself fighting a ghost from the past who is presenting a new threat to the youthful U.S. president's political future.

Already trying to overcome a tarnished international image, Mr. Clinton has been forced to hastily put together a strategy for dealing with a wave of Cuban boat refugees that has raised doubts among even the president's loyal supporters.

Mr. Clinton abruptly ended a 28-year policy of automatically admitting Cuban refugees to the United States. Then, when Cuban-American activists became upset, he tightened the economic embargo on Cuba to intensify pressure on Mr. Castro.

The ageing Cuban leader has called off the patrols that previously stopped his people from leaving. As in the Mariel Boatlift of 1980, he has simply adopted the policy of standing by and watching Washington squirm.

Mr. Clinton, whose approval rating at home has plunged to around 40 per cent in the polls, knows a mistake in handling Cuba could become a fatal flaw for him politically.

He has appeared to be approaching the crisis as a domestic problem rather than a diplomatic dilemma. Secretary of state Warren Christopher and White House National Security Adviser Anthony Lake have both been on vacation, although Mr. Christopher was summoned back to Washington Thursday. Attorney-general Janet Reno has been the main spokesperson for the Cuba policy.

White House and State Department officials have clashed over how to deal with Mr. Castro, who has been a thorn in the side of U.S. presidents since he toppled President Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Should Washington talk to Mr. Castro? The Cuban leader, who ironically consumed much of the time of Mr. Clinton's boyhood idol, President John Kennedy, has offered talks as a way out of the latest strain between Washington and Havana.

But the United States is

balking, even at a time when it is engaged in a dialogue with old cold war enemies such as China, North Korea and Vietnam.

To talk to Cuba, senior U.S. officials say, would divert Mr. Castro's attention at a time when he should be thinking of democratic reforms to ease the political future.

"We're not interested in having a higher-level political dialogue with Cuba," Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff said. "Our position is, we are not going to enter a dialogue with Castro over the pace and nature of change in Cuba."

The official sees Mr. Castro as trying to lay his problems at the feet of the United States.

"It is Castro and the Cuban government's fault," White House Spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said of the refugees. "The people are leaving repressive circumstances and a crumbling economy, all brought about by Fidel Castro's refusal to move to democratic and economic reforms."

Even fellow democrats, however, have problems with the refusal to talk. Senator Christopher branded the approach as "mindless and foolish."

Administration officials dust off the cold war rhetoric of the past and insist that the United States cannot deal with a leader who is still wed to Communist ideology and denies fundamental civil liberties to his people.

The policy, however, apparently only applies to Mr. Castro. Mr. Clinton met in the Oval Office Thursday with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to discuss Mr. Brown's upcoming trip to China.

Not only does Communism still flourish in China, but Mr. Clinton earlier this year had to abandon his demands for human rights improvements there — essentially because Beijing refused to listen to him.

White House officials watch the relentless flotilla of Cubans with deepening unease. They point out that when U.S. vessels began picking up Haitian boat people and taking them to Guantanamo, the Haitian exodus stopped in eight days.

But the Cuban exodus has been maintaining a steady pace despite the tough new Clinton policy.

LETTERS

Unfounded criticism

To the Editor:

JUST FOR the record, not all American citizens in Amman see eye to eye with E. Yaghi's harangue about the American embassy (Jordan Times, August 25-26).

Having lived in Amman on and off for the past two years, first as a Fulbright scholar, and later as a journalist, I have had plenty of opportunities to view the embassy staff at close range.

I feel that Ms. Yaghi's "take" on the local staff or Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs) as they are professionally known — was grossly unfair. Whatever you choose to call these employees, they are certainly courteous and professional. However, I'm sorry to say that their visitors are not always the easiest people to service.

Moreover, I can only assume that Ms. Yaghi did not approach the librarian with a specific enquiry, nor did she actually speak to her for that matter. I have spent a fair amount of time in the library and can attest to the fact that the librarian does in fact have excellent English language skills (although to my knowledge she doesn't speak a word of Greek). And when it comes to locating material and sources, she and her colleagues are helpful and efficient. They don't, however, perform miracles.

While some of the Jordanian employees are not blessed with the same level of English proficiency as American citizens who may come to the embassy, on the whole the standard of English amongst FSNs is remarkably high. Certainly few, if any, have problems communicating basic information to visitors, though they might find it difficult to sustain a conversation about nuclear physics.

No one would dispute Ms. Yaghi's point about the duty of the embassy to serve its citizens regardless of colour and creed. But perhaps she should practice the vision of equality that she unnecessarily preaches. Her unfounded employees lead one to believe that she has a bit of a problem with the "natives".

Furthermore, the tone of phrase employed in the column suggests that the writer thinks that the American embassy is first and foremost some kind of a getaway for Americans: an exclusive club for U.S. passport holders. Well it's not. The American embassy in Amman, like U.S. embassies around the world, provide some special services for its citizens as well as a wide variety of extensive services for the local community. It's not meant to be a place where we can hang out should we get tired of our local surroundings or years for home.

Ms. Yaghi is entitled to her opinion, but I would like to offer her one piece of sober advice: if you're looking for red carpet treatment, a private club or a home away from home, you'd best look elsewhere.

Stephanie Gekin, Amman.

Features

Jordan's moves help peace

(Continued from page 1)

people would come to an end soon.

He said Iraq was "an important part of the region, and its national unity and future are important to the whole region."

On reports of Iraq's involvement in the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said "Iraq has its own weight and influence in this region."

King Hussein, who left for Germany and France on Sunday, said Jordan maintains good relations with both countries and voiced hope that they would support Jordan and help ease its debt burden.

On the Washington Declaration, King Hussein said the reference in the declaration to Jordan's sovereignty over holy places in Jerusalem is a statement of fact and a reality.

Jordan has been able to win recognition of its role in Jerusalem on behalf of the Islamic Umma, he said. This role, the King said, "is a responsible role which Jordan continues to perform."

The King said Jordan does not compete with any party, nor does it seek to impose itself on them.

The King said Jordan's position towards Jerusalem evolved from the special place Jerusalem has in the conscience and hearts of Jordanians, Arabs and Muslims.

"Jordan's historic position towards Jerusalem is well-known. So is its status since it is part of our past and present memories and our future vision of the Holy City."

The King said the Jordanian role in the upkeep of Islamic holy places "had continued despite the fall of Jerusalem under Israeli occupation in 1967."

Jordan has continued to supervise the holy places in Islamic Waqf, oversee Islamic jurisdiction and maintain its role after 1974, when the Palestinian people recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their representative.

The King said no time has been fixed for a visit to Jerusalem but added that he had received an invitation.

"When I go to Jerusalem, I do not need a permission from anybody. I will go there as a Hashemite, Arab, Jordanian Muslim, who has a right to go there," he said.

Demirel supports peace moves

(Continued from page 1)

attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Mr. Demirel also visited the tombs of the late King Abdullah, King Talal and Queen Zein Al Sharaf where he laid wreaths.

The Turkish president also laid wreaths on the tombs of Turkish soldiers who were killed in World War I and buried in Salt City. He was accompanied by the King's political adviser, Marwan Al Qassem.

Mr. Demirel was seen off upon departure by King Hussein and Prince Hassan and other Jordanian officials who had also received him upon arrival.

Talks advance development plans

(Continued from page 1)

two sides had yet to find solutions for complicated matters like those related to borders and water issues.

Israel wishes to create a common park at the Jordanian-Israeli borders

and show pressing need.

The passes, obtained at border posts, could help Algerian residents of Europe, finishing vacations in their homeland, to drive back to Europe via Morocco and ferry across the Gibraltar Straits.

Hundreds of such people were stranded at the border Saturday. They worried about returning to work or school in Europe on time after being told that obtaining entry visas could take weeks.

The government also urged the national ferry company to give priority to bringing home stranded Algerians. The state railroad was told to help drive home Algerians stuck at the border.

Algeria-Morocco row

(Continued from page 1)

police against Algerian visitors. Algerian-registered cars are stopped and the occupants taken to police stations where they are insulted, pushed around, questioned and fingerprinted.

Moroccan newspapers have characterised the robbery as part of a "destabilisation" campaign, while the Spanish press has raised the spectre of Algeria's Islamic rebellion spilling into Morocco.

Morocco's Interior Ministry has slightly eased the visa rules to allow special entry to Algeria — only through Tuesday — if they "justify their ignorance" of the rule.

Israel cabinet approves W. Bank plan

(Continued from page 1)

and they have to do that."

Five Palestinian workers on the run from Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip are suspected of involvement in the violence, Israeli police said.

Police staged a massive sweep for Palestinian workers in Israel without government-issued permits after Friday's stabbing deaths.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said 215 Palestinians were detained so far, with heavy fines imposed on employers.

Mr. Bar-Chen also said 23 Israelis were arrested in riots that erupted Saturday night in Ramle. They burned tires.

their sole and legitimate representative at the Rabat summit, he noted.

"The Palestinian decision did not affect our responsibility towards the Islamic holy places. On the contrary, we have been asked to continue to perform our role and duty towards these places," the King said.

The King stressed that the issue of Jerusalem would be discussed by the Palestinians and Israelis in the final negotiations on the status of Jerusalem.

The subject was raised in Washington because "we believe that there could not be any agreement on any formula without Jerusalem," King Hussein said. Jerusalem is sacred to all followers of the three monotheistic faiths, and, as such, a religious sovereignty on it should only be given to God."

The King said there was no problem with the Palestinians over Jerusalem or any other issues.

"The problem, if any, might be at the leadership level," he said. "Everybody should know that we seek coordination and that we have been calling for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and Jordanian-Arab coordination, but such coordination is lacking."

On the latest meetings between senior Palestinian and Jordanian officials in Amman, the King said the meetings stressed the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and cooperation.

Asked whether a new Jordanian government was being planned, the King said: "There is nothing that pushes in that direction. Such a change usually takes place when circumstances warrant it."

The King said no time has been fixed for a visit to Jerusalem but added that he had received an invitation.

"When I go to Jerusalem, I do not need a permission from anybody. I will go there as a Hashemite, Arab, Jordanian Muslim, who has a right to go there," he said.

Russians are seeing, rightly or not, in a multitude of ways.

Some of us think, for example, that America is walking off with our best minds.

Boris Bunkin, a highly respected academician, says American interests seem to be spoiling off the cream.

Their grants are a pittance by American standards but huge by our own.

"So our best scientists are waiting in line to go."

"In Russia, says Nikolai Krotov, head of a publishing house in Moscow, "the pride factor is more important even than money."

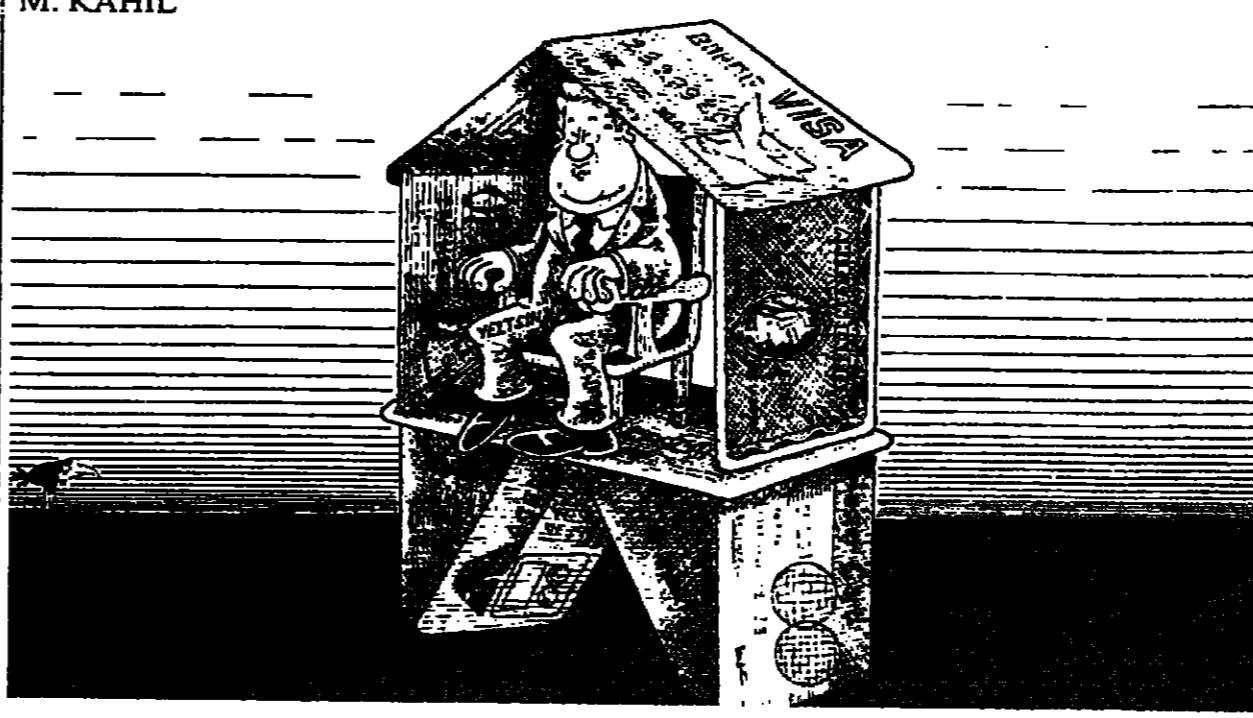
He points to the touchy area of foreign policy, the Balkans in particular.

"'Serbia was a traditional ally, like a brother. Yet

Is Russia becoming a banana republic?

By Yelena Khanga

M. KAHIL



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He points to the touchy area of foreign policy, the Balkans in particular.

Serbia was a traditional ally, like a brother. Yet

now America is trying to enforce its own solution without consulting Russia. How would they feel if there was a conflict on the Mexican border and Russia stepped in without talking to America?

Even the clergy grumble. They suffered through the lean Communist years. Now American evangelists march in and step on their corns. The Billy Grahams can afford lavish media campaigns. They rent whole stadiums and plaster ads on subways and television.

The Russian clergy can't match those marketing blitzes, and they are miffed.

American foundations have become objects of suspicion. We hear that foundations are pouring in

money. We are supposed to be grateful. But ordinary people don't see much of it, which suggests to them that it finds its way to somebody's pocket — American or Russian, and probably someone close to the trough.

All of this creates a situation in which small slights become large blows. Our veterans, for example, were deeply hurt that they were left out of the D-Day celebrations.

True, we were not directly involved in the Normandy landings. But the veterans feel that the United States was playing down their enormous sacrifices and their contribution to the Allied victory, which for many is their last source of dignity. They ask: We

aren't we Allies, too?

The older people are not happy that English is coming at them from all sides — advertisements, television shows, everything. They are deluged by third-rate terminator movies and soaps. And why, people ask, are we now bombarded with ads for cigarettes — something Americans themselves are fighting?

There are signs that such annoyances are starting to feed an atmosphere of paranoia. While I was there, for example, the FBI director, Louis Freeh, was in Moscow to launch a joint attack on organised crime with the Russian police. But at least one television reporter saw a more sinister motive. Are the Yankees using the Russian underground, he

Sarajevo gets rid of its Serbian street names

By Dina Neretljak
Agence France Presse

inhabited quarters followed the suggestions of a commission of Muslim writers and historians, in a move initiated by the city government in mid-1993, said Zijad Dzananovic, an official of the Central municipality.

Changes are expected "very soon" in the rest of Sarajevo, he said.

The names of roads, bridges and schools being dumped commemorate figures in Serbian history. They are anathema since the Serbs became the enemy following the breakup of the Yugoslav federation.

Among the most notable is the bridge named for Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip, whose assassination in Sarajevo by Austria's Archduke Franz-Ferdinand in 1914 sparked off World War I.

It has returned to its traditional name of Latin Bridge.

Centar and Old Town, two of four municipalities of the war-torn and divided city, have already completed the renaming of 80 per cent of their streets.

These mostly Muslim-

name of a Muslim feudal leader.

Faruk, a 65-year-old native Sarajevo, said he was glad about some of the retrieved names, but wondered why "some perfectly agreeable names were changed for those of completely anonymous people."

No debate was organised among citizens "because of the war conditions, but we had incessant calls from people who urged us to change the killing of the last two years," Mr. Dzananovic claimed.

But most people woke up to find they had been given a new address overnight.

Vildana, a 29-year-old Muslim, said she had been unworried by the fact that her street had been named after a Serb ruler, Nemanja.

"We were neither asked our opinion, nor informed that the change actually took place," she said.

The current Bosnian administration has been slower to rename streets than its counterparts in Croatia and Serbia, or the various self-proclaimed

mini-states formed since the beginning of the war in the former Yugoslavia.

The Muslim-led government, supported by moderate Croats and Serbs, that was elected in 1990, did not undertake the job immediately, primarily because it could not agree on what criterion to apply.

But with the Muslims now dominant, the city government is making up for lost time.

However, Sarajevo's think the newly renamed names will cause much confusion.

"Just imagine trying to figure out somebody's address, or the feeling of refugees once they return to the city," Faruk said.

The city government seems unworried. "People will get used to it once everything is introduced at full scale," Mr. Dzananovic said.

Faruk was sceptical: "When I finally memorise the new names, after half a lifetime, a new government will change them and I'll have to start again," he said.

Secret truths from Stalin's 'Outlaw'

By Tania Teschke
Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — Ovid Gorchakov, surrounded by the relics of his cold war career that adorn his modest Moscow apartment, imparted this first-hand observation: Josef Stalin was partially bald.

As the late Soviet dictator's personal English-language translator and a top wartime spy, Mr. Gorchakov, 70, was privy to decades of secrets of the Kremlin elite.

And after a life in the shadows, he has now begun to share some of them in a three-volume autobiography entitled "outlaw," part of which has already been published.

"The first time I saw Stalin I was shocked," Mr. Gorchakov, a gold-medal Soviet laureate author, said in a recent interview.

"He was always seen as a towering man. But he was a shrimp! And he was not the war. Russia nearly lost the war because of Stalin. He was often crazy and believed everyone wanted to do away with him."

Despite misgivings, Mr. Gorchakov, described in the Soviet Encyclopedia of World War II as one of the 10 "most honoured" Soviet intelligence agents, worked with Stalin and later Nikita Krushchev during a 15-year post in the Kremlin.

He was also the only one of the top 10 wartime spies to avoid execution, a fact Gorchakov attributed to his youthful and impeccable English learned during six years living in England and the United States as a child.

"Stalin was always very suspicious of the Americans. He had a rule: to annihilate all those who had been in the West," Mr. Gorchakov said, adding that he was spared for his translation abilities.

According to Incan mythology, the founders of Peru's most powerful pre-Colombian culture Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo emerged from Lake Titicaca near the Bolivian border until reaching the fertile sacred valley of Urubambaba and later Cuzco, which became the capital of the Inca empire.

Mr. Gorchakov has been visibly affected by public statements by Mr. Higuchi, from whom he has been living apart since his public protest this month over an electoral law that bans her from seeking office and criticising his policies.

Mr. Higuchi's "generalised and vague accusations" of corruption in Fujimori's government generate uncertainty and damage the country's image abroad, the president said.

Polls show that Mr. Fujimori, son of Japanese immigrants, holds an advantage of about 20 percentage

points, as an excuse to worm their way into our law enforcement?

America respects only its own law, he continued. America does whatever it wants. Look at what it did in Panama. Are we becoming a banana republic?

There is even talk that America was pulling strings in the assault on the Russian White House last fall by President Boris Yeltsin's forces. People noticed that CNN seemed to have consistently good camera angles, as if it knew what was coming, and that President Bill Clinton never actually denounced the unconstitutional attack.

I don't want to overstate the case. Lots of contradictory currents are running through my country right now. For many of us, America is still the land of the dream. Personally, I think a lot of the griping is off the wall.

But reason does not flourish when life goes from bad to worse. The growing annoyance is something that Americans should not write off. As they have seen in their own country, the negative in politics can be much more powerful than the positive.

There is a big irony in this, of course. During the cold war, the bad feeling towards the United States came from the government. Now it is coming from the grass roots. America used to be our scapegoat because it was our "enemy." Now it is becoming one because it is our "friend."

The writer is a former reporter for The Moscow News and the author of "Soul to Soul: The Story of a Black Russian American Family." This comment is reprinted from The New York Times.

Josef Stalin

Gorchakov remarked, "I was a witness to Stalin's last words, which were read from a declaration he read aloud. Something like, 'we must be more energetic and fight for our great endeavour. We must conquer America,' and so on."

"What else would he say... I was very glad when Stalin died, but of course I could not say so openly."

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Jamaican hurdler tests positive; Vlad, Botev win weightlifting golds

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Jamaican hurdler Robert Foster, this season's NCAA indoor and outdoor titlist, Saturday became the second Commonwealth Games competitor in two days to be disqualified over drugs.

The day after Ghanaian bantamweight boxer Godson Sawah was stripped of his bronze medal for using a weight-lossing diuretic furosemide, Foster, who finished sixth in the 110 hurdles final, was sent home for using the banned stimulant ephedrine.

A Commonwealth Games Federation statement said Foster's sixth place would be nullified. Details of the positive test would be passed on to track's world governing body, the IAAF, who could further punish the hurdler.

Foster has lived in the United States since he was 13 and studies at Fresno University, Calif.

While it was shame for Foster, it was glory for another Jamaican hurdler, Michelle Freeman, who clocked 13.12 to win the women's 100 Saturday.

In the weightlifting arena, Romanian-born former world and Olympic champion Nicu Vlad collected three gold medals on his first appearance at the Commonwealth Games but failed in his bid to set a world record.

Now competing at heavyweight for Australia, 30-year-old Vlad broke the Commonwealth mark with his second lift with a snatch of 186 kilos to clinch the gold medal.

He then tried to become the first 108kg competitor to lift 198 kilos but had to drop the bar before getting it

above his head.

Vlad, Olympic titlist in 1984 and world champion in 1986 and '90, then returned to easily win the clean and jerk with a lift of 220 kilos. The nearest to him was Nigeria's innocent Chika who lifted 200.

Vlad also won the overall gold with Chika finishing second in all three and Gareth Hives of Wales, who once served a suspension for drug use, collecting bronze in all three.

Only four lifters took part in the 108kg category. South Africa's Marc Marais was the one to finish out of the medals.

Favoured South African Okkert Brits, who has beaten world record holder Sergei Bubka this season, entered the competition at 5.50 and missed all three attempts at that height.

"I feel very bad," Brits said. "There was not a lot of pressure, but I really wanted to win the gold for South Africa. The Commonwealth Games was the most important meet of the year for me.

"I feel so negative now that I just want to swim something."

Malaysia, which hosts the games in Kuala Lumpur in 1996, won its first gold medals in the pentathlon day in the badminton events.

Rashid Sidek, the favoured player, overwhelmed countryman Ewe Hock Ong 15-6, 15-4. Then soon Kit Cheah and Beng Kiang Soo downed England's Simon Archer and Christopher Hunt 15-10, 15-9 in the men's doubles final.

Australia's Lisa Campbell whipped Canada's Si-An Deng 11-2, 11-5 to win the women's singles.

Kasumi Takahashi, who was born in Tokyo, lives in Los Angeles but competes

1.94 metres gained her the high jump title ahead of South Africa's Charmaine Weavers.

Launcie Agutu won the men's 10,000 metres by 9.50 seconds from Zimbabwe's Tendai Chimbaswa with Fackson Nkandu of Zambia third.

The nearest to him was Nigeria's innocent Chika who lifted 200.

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Kasumi Takahashi, who was born in Tokyo, lives in Los Angeles but competes

for Australia, added four golds to the overall title she won Friday in rhythmic gymnastics. She triumphed Saturday in the hoop, the ball, the clubs and the ribbon competitions.

Twelve boxing finals also were staged Saturday with Canada winning four and Northern Ireland and Kenya each winning two.

The host nation's winners were Casey Patton (featherweight, 57kg), Mike Strange (lightweight, 60kg), Rowan Donaldson (middleweight, 75kg), Dale Brown (heavyweight, 81kg).

Kenya's Haman Ramadhani won the light-flyweight (48kg) title and countryman Omsaar Ahmed triumphed at heavyweight (91kg).

Northern Ireland's Jim Webb outpointed Bob Gasio of Western Samoa in the light middleweight (71kg) final.

The Seychelles collected its first ever Commonwealth Games medal when rival Cadeau received one of the bronze but team officials weren't happy about the fact he did not fight for a place in the final.

Cadeau, one of the favourites for gold, did not show for his semifinal against Webb because he thought it was scheduled for later in the day. His team's protest that they weren't told of the scheduling change was thrown out.

"It's a sad story," said Antonio Gopal, president of the Seychelles National Olympic Committee, said. "I'm very unhappy with the situation."

Northern Ireland's Neil Sinclair won the welterweight final, outpointing Albert Eromosele of Nigeria.

Ronaldo scores on Dutch League debut

AMSTERDAM (R) — Brazilian striker Ronaldo, the world's most expensive teenager soccer player and hailed as the new Pele, scored on his Dutch League debut to help PSV Eindhoven to a 4-2 win at Vitesse Arnhem Sunday.

Ronaldo, a member of Brazil's World Cup-winning squad signed by PSV for \$6 million, scored the opening goal in the 10th minute of an excellent debut. But the 17-year-old was upstaged by another new recruit, Belgian international Luu Nillis who scored twice.

A spokesman for French President Francois Mitterrand said last week that Mitterrand would not be opening the congress, in which world sports chiefs are due to debate the future of the games, despite IOC statements that he would do so.

Instead, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur will address Monday's formal opening ceremony.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who was due to sing at the grandiose ceremony, also withdrew — because his mother was sick, according to Olympic sources.

IOC Director-General Francois Carrard said Mandala, whom he described as an "old friend" of the Olympic movement, had long warned the IOC that his parliamentary schedule might prevent him coming to the five-day congress and subsequent meetings of the IOC itself was \$1 million French francs (\$15.1 million) — and that was likely to be exceeded.

The IOC itself is contributing \$1 million francs and it sponsors 10 million francs. The French government and the city of Paris are paying 20 million each to host the meeting.

In the run-up to the congress, the IOC's 10-member executive board has had weekend meetings with the

ecologist Jacques Cousteau.

The congress begins with a day of celebrations across Paris, including an Oxford versus Cambridge boat race on the Seine and a torch and flag relay, before the actual opening ceremony in the Bercy Stadium in eastern Paris.

It was in Paris in 1894 that Baron Pierre de Coubertin saw his dream come true of reviving the Olympics of ancient Greece.

Joining Balladur in City officials, with three defeats behind them, have been keen to play down any notion they are the favourites, recalling only too well their narrow loss to Nagano, Japan, for the right to host 1998 Winter Games.

But Salt Lake City officials, with three defeats behind them, have been keen to play down any notion they are the favourites, recalling only too well their narrow loss to Nagano, Japan, for the right to host 1998 Winter Games.

An IOC evaluation commission will narrow the field down to four candidates in January and the 90 IOC members will make the final choice in Budapest next June.

The executive board also heard reports from the organisers of both the Atlanta Games in 1996 and those in Nagano. Carrard said both cities showed themselves to be making "substantial and satisfactory" progress in their preparations.

Mandela drops out as IOC congress speaker

PARIS (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela has dropped out of this week's centenary Olympic congress because of political commitments at home, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) official said Sunday.

Mandela's decision means organisers of the \$15-million IOC congress, the Olympic movement's first such meeting for 13 years, have lost their three biggest names.

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In the run-up to the congress, the IOC's 10-member executive board has had weekend meetings with the

nine cities bidding to host the 2002 Winter Games.

Salt Lake City, capital of the American state of Utah, is generally seen as the frontrunner ahead of Quebec City, Canada, the Swiss town of Sion, Graz, Austria, and Ostersund in Sweden.

Also bidding are the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, Tarvisio in Italy, the Spanish town of Jaca, and Poprad of Slovakia.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠A QJ74 ♦J ♣A7 ♤KQ84

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

As—With a minimum opening bid, you would rebid two spades to show your six-card suit. This hand is considerably better than the one held by the opponents.

What action do you take?

As—Your hand may not be worth much to partner at a spade contract; should you take a preference to that suit. However, if partner has even two hearts, you might do quite well in the Lipton final.

What action do you take?

As—Your hand is not good enough to double first and then bid diamonds, or whether you should content yourself with a simple overcall. We don't think you can make game, unless partner has enough to act voluntarily, so we would opt for the conservative two diamonds.

Q.4—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠AK VQ742 ♦QJ74 ♣A4 Your right-hand opponent opens one club. What action do you take?

As—What an ugly hand! Your prime values are in your short suits, but if you don't act now you might be faced with even more difficult problems later. Overall one heart.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠A VQ642 ♦QJ742 ♣K7 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

As—You don't have the values for game, even if partner is maximum, and with your balanced hand there's no need to check on the possibility of a 4-4 major suit fit. Pass.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠A VQ642 ♦QJ742 ♣K7 Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

As—It's simply a matter of whether you are good enough to double first and then bid diamonds, or whether you should content yourself with a simple overcall. We don't think you can make game, unless partner has enough to act voluntarily, so we would opt for the conservative two diamonds.

SEMI-VILLA FOR RENT

For more information Contact: 861523 / 810523

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The British Products Exhibition

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Consists of 4 bedrooms (one of which is a master bedroom), maid's room, 3 bathrooms, 130-square-metre area that includes salon, dining and sitting rooms, 3 balconies, terrace, garage, separate entrance, central heating with telephone. The total area is 320m². Location: Umm Utheina.

but as
eaker

Al Ahli capture under-18 basketball championship

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli Saturday secured their first basketball title of the season when they retained the under-18 trophy despite losing 60-56 to Al Jazireh who came in second.

It was Al Ahli's only defeat in the second round of the competition in which eight teams took part. In another match, Al Orthodox beat Al Abbasi 75-35 and settled for third place in the championship organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Jazireh players had a hard task against Al Ahli as they needed to win by 17 points to clinch the trophy. But their 4-point win was nevertheless important for the team's morale after surprisingly losing 56-54 to Al Orthodox last week in a repeated match.

Al Jazireh were leading Al Orthodox 49-42 when electricity went out at the sports palace Wednesday prompting JBF officials to repeat the match. Al

Jazireh had won their first round encounter 69-46.

Al Abbasi finished

fourth after losing to Al

Orthodox and the rest of

their second round matches

71-63 (40-29) to Al Jazireh,

77-50 (42-26) to Al

Ahli.

However Al Abbasi

again proved that they are

the newest face in top level

competition. Though a

second division club with

modest capabilities, they

have made it to the final

rounds of most age-group

competition to all-time

rivals Al Ahli in 1990,

1992 and 1993.

Al Jazireh's main concern

at the moment seems to be

holding on to their first

division title. Their men's

team recently returned

from a tournament in

Romania after scoring

good results against top

teams. However their

younger age-group teams

seem to be undergoing a

transition period and even

their women's team did not

take part in the JBF's

championship this year.

Leblanc wins men's world road race title

AGRICENTO, Sicily (AP)

— Luc Leblanc of France threw his cap into the air and raised his arms Sunday, crossing the finish line by himself as he won the men's professional road race at the world cycling championships.

Leblanc broke away in the last kilometre as the road climbed up from the valley of

Greek Temples and reached

the finish line nine seconds

ahead of Italy's Claudio

Chiappucci and countryman

Richard Virenque after a

grueling 251.75 kilometres

(156.5 miles) in torrid weather.

The 28-year-old from

Limoges gave France its first

men's road title since 1980.

when Bernard Hinault won at

Sallanches, completing 19

laps of the circuit in 6 hours,

33 minutes, 54 seconds at an

average speed of 38.347 kph

(23.8 mph).

Italy's Massimo Ghirotto,

the last cyclist to surrender to

Leblanc's decisive attack,

finished fourth in the same

time as Chiappucci and

Virenque.

Russian Dmitry Konyshov

was fifth, 15 seconds behind.

Denmark's Rolf Sorensen

edged defending champion

Lance Armstrong of the United

States for sixth place.

Leblanc, who turned pro-

fessional in 1987, considering

quitting two years ago be-

cause of his disappointing

results. After his victory, he

rushed to embrace his wife

Maria.

Home favourite Kankkunen

effectively lost the rally

during Friday's second

stage in a somersault that

damaged his factory Toyota.

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1. Suzuki Vitara 1990, duty unpaid, A/C & full options, dark blue colour.
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If you are interested, please call on Tel: 606638

Makinen wins 1,000 Lakes Rally

by the JBF.

In addition to the women's title last year, Al Jazireh also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

Al Orthodox, who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the eighties are now aiming to strengthen their younger lineup of players after losing the first division championship to all-time rivals Al Ahli in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

Al Ahli's main concern at the moment seems to be holding on to their first division title. Their men's team recently returned from a tournament in Romania after scoring good results against top teams. However their younger age-group teams seem to be undergoing a transition period and even their women's team did not take part in the JBF's championship this year.

Auriol also secured Toyota its second consecutive manufacturers' title.

Auriol will be the favourite for the next race in San Remo, Italy, Oct. 9-13, as he aims for the title after finishing in the top three each of the last four years. He placed second once and third twice for Lancia, and was third last year with Toyota.

Auriol tops the standings with 90 points. Sainz has 84 and defending champion

Juha Kankkunen, of Finland 74.

Tommi Makinen, tutored by Kankkunen, became the first Finnish driver other than

Kankkunen to win an event since 1989, when Pentti

Airikkala won the RAC.

Stepping in for Italian Miki Biasion, Belgian-based

Makinen emphasised the great promise he has shown in recent years.

Sainz, a two-time world

champion, was in an attacking

position against Auriol

Sunday morning, but an accident landed him in a ditch and cost 13 seconds over the first two stages. Three stages later the Spaniard conceded he had no chance to overtake.

Home favourite Kankkunen effectively lost the rally during Friday's second stage in a somersault that damaged his factory Toyota.

Russian Dmitry Konyshov

was fifth, 15 seconds behind.

Denmark's Rolf Sorensen

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Denmark's Rolf S

NEWS IN BRIEF

New quake hits Mascara region

ALGIERS (AFP) — A powerful earthquake reaching 4.1 on the Richter scale hit Algeria's Mascara region Sunday causing some damage, the research centre for astrophysics and geophysics said here. The tremor which struck at around 7:30 a.m. (0650 GMT) came 10 days after a quake measuring 5.6 on the open-ended Richter scale devastated the region, claiming 171 lives. More than 10,000 people were left homeless and 289 were injured. A quake on the magnitude of four can cause moderate damage. The research centre said houses which had already been damaged in the Aug. 16 quake collapsed. "People were gripped by great panic," a radio report said earlier. The epicentre of the quake was in the Beni Chougrane mountains where the earlier quake was also located.

PHILIPPE COULON (AP) — **King from Pakistan, China**
AMMAN (AP) — Jordan's foreign minister was on his way to Egypt on Sunday after visiting Pakistan and China to part of a three-nation diplomatic campaign to rally support for U.N. trade sanctions. Adel Ibrahim, a spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Amman, said Mohamed Ali al-Sayed, who is on a trip to Islamabad and Beijing, "was worried about the worsening economic situation in Baghdad and the U.N. trade sanctions." He declined to say whether he had made any progress in his mission, which ends on Sept. 1. Security Council's regular 60-day session of the year is scheduled for Sept. 18.

PHILIPPE COULON (AP) — **King from W. Sahara for polls**

RABAT (AP) — Observers from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Polisario front have arrived in Western Sahara for a long-delayed self-determination referendum, a spokesman said. "The OAU and Polisario delegations arrived in Guelmim on Saturday for the launch of the referendum," the spokesman told Reuters by telephone from Guelmim. "The last obstacles have been overcome, the two parties (Morocco and Polisario) are now collaborating with the U.N. for the registration and the identification of persons eligible to vote," she said. Guelmim is the only town in the former Spanish colony where Polisario guerrillas have fought a long-running war for self-determination.

Egypt's police seized insulin smuggler

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian airport police on Sunday arrested a Nigerian man who tried to smuggle out half-a-million insulin injections packed in 12 suitcases, airport sources said. Security officials said the haul, worth one million Egyptian pounds (\$100,000), was the biggest attempt to smuggle insulin medicine out of Egypt. The man, Emmanuel Adegbola, told police he had friends bought the insulin here. Police said that he planned to sell it in Nigeria. Most insulin can be bought in Egypt without a prescription. Many are subsidised by the government.

Finnish MP seeks release of hostages

HELSINKI (R) — A Finnish member of parliament has come to Turkey to help seek freedom for two young Finns reportedly seized by Kurdish separatists three weeks ago, he said on Sunday. Turkish officials say the two tourists, Mikko Hietalahti and Tuomo Pollari, were kidnapped by forces of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at a roadblock in a largely Kurdish region. The PKK is waging a guerrilla struggle against Turkish forces for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast. The deputy, Björn Kallis, a member of the small Finnish Christian League, left Finland on Saturday together with Petri Hietalahti, brother of one of the two missing tourists. Mr. Kallis' wife Agneta said he phoned home from the town of Diyarbakir, optimistic of winning their freedom. "If everything goes well, the boys will be released...he is hopeful," she said by telephone.

Kurds threaten to hit French interests

PARIS (R) — A Kurdish separatist group threatened on Saturday to hit French interests in the Middle East in retaliation against an alleged French police crackdown on its members. Kurdish militants have accused police this week of brutally breaking up a demonstration outside Paris' Pompidou culture centre and holding nearly 200 protesters for questioning. "Kurds who were protesting democratically against massacres in Kurdistan were shamefully attacked by French security forces," the Kurdish National Liberation Front (ERNK) said in a statement faxed to Reuters. "By this action, France declares its hostility to the Kurdish people," it said. Paris police authorities have not provided details of the Kurdish demonstration.

Wounded tourists prepare to leave Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Two Spanish tourists wounded in a militant kidnapping will leave Egypt on Sunday with the body of their son, who was killed in the raid, a cousin said. Ignacio Sanchez de la Torre, 26, was making arrangements to return to Spain when he was shot in the chest and is still in a critical condition. His wife, who was hurt in the raid, was killed on Friday when militants hijacked a bus just outside Nag Hammadi, south of Cairo.

Engagement ring

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian authorities have smashed a network of "cells" of rebels in the north of the country, a newspaper reported Sunday. Egyptian intelligence officials said the network of "cells" had been dismantled in the provinces of Giza and Cairo during the past month. The rebels, who are members of the "Ansarullah" group, had planned to carry out bomb attacks in the country, it said without saying how many. The suspects "confessed to being... and conduct terrorist activities," the paper said. In the north, especially areas close to the Egyptian border, are regularly the scene of clashes between Egyptian forces and rebels of various opposition groups. Among the most active are the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPKK) and the Iraq-based Mujahideen. The country's main armed opposition group, Iranian-backed Hezbollah, has repeatedly accused Iraq of supporting the rebels.

Family demands death for 'Israeli agent'

BAALBEK (R) — The family of a Lebanese man suspected of aiding Israeli commandos kidnap Muslim militant leader Hassan Al Dirani from his east Lebanon home last May called on Sunday for his public execution for treason. "After confessing to his crime and his treason... we're no longer the family of he who sold himself, his family and homeland to the Jewish devil for a small price," the Dirani clan said in a statement in the eastern Lebanon town of Baalbek. "We demand all honourable people and struggle to spill the blood and the blood of anyone whom investigation shows to be linked to the kidnapping," added the statement, read out by an official of the Faithful Resistance group led by Dirani. Dirani and his followers formed a small group in 1988 after their dismissal from the Syrian-backed Amal movement. Like the bigger pro-Israeli Hezbollah, it is battling Israeli forces in South Lebanon. The statement, which did not name the suspected Israeli agent but said he was related to Dirani, added that the execution should take place in the Dirani's house.

Egypt tightens security

Combined agency dispatches

EGYPT HAS tightened security at hotels and tourist sites after militants warned foreigners to stay away from a controversial U.N. population conference expected to draw up to 15,000 and 20,000 participants.

Egypt's main militant organisation, the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), has added a violent twist to the Islamist campaign against the conference, saying foreigners who take part will be risking their lives.

U.N. officials in Cairo refused to comment on the warning. The International Conference on Population and Development, organised by the United Nations, opens in Cairo on Sept. 5.

Hotels said they had already stepped up security to cope with the influx of delegates but had increased their security staff after a militant attack on a tourist bus killed a Spanish boy and wounded three Spaniards in southern Egypt on Friday.

White-uniformed police were deployed on street corners outside five-star hotels and tourist sites, already packed by Arab and Western tourists who returned to Cairo in force after a five-month-old lull in militant violence.

More plainclothes security men were stationed in lobbies of hotels to watch out for any suspicious elements. Guards were undergoing thorough checks of bags and suitcases.

The hoteliers said police units provided by the interior ministry were closely monitoring entrances and exits of hotels.

There is maximum readiness for any emergency. Anything that you could think of security wise is available — metal detectors, electronic doors and very up-to-date equipment for sniffing (explosives)," Wagdi Al Qadi, security manager at the five-star Marriott Hotel, told Reuters.

Another hotel manager who refused to give his name said: "We have already taken strict security measures and extra staff."

Conservative Muslims have attacked the draft conference document, which takes a pragmatic approach towards issues such as abortion and extramarital and adolescent sex.

Some of the more extreme critics say the conference is a bid either to cut the population growth in Islamic states or to promote "immoral and corrupt" liberal views on sex and family.

In Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Pope John Paul said he feared the conference would promote sexual relationships devoid of ethics and family values.

"I fear certain tendency of the conference's draft document to conceive sexuality in a manner that is too individualistic and does not give enough value to... marriage and the family," the pontiff said during his weekly audience message.

Speaking to pilgrims at the papal summer resort in the hills south of Rome, the 74-year-old Pope said the Cairo conference should promote responsible sexual relationships in marriage.

"It would be very grave if during the conference... instead of aiming toward promoting a culture of responsible procreation participants would be content to accept or even favour sexuality that is devoid of ethical reference points," he said.

The Pope has made the conference one of the toughest battles of his reign and wants it explicitly to exclude abortion as a means of population control and to defend traditional family values.

Iran said Sunday it would take part in the conference.

Health Minister Alireza Marandi told the official Iranian news agency that Iran would participate to "be able to introduce its position on the conference's draft working document and make suggestions for correcting parts of the plan."

He said parts of the action plan on population control were "scientifically vague and contained double-meanings" and had to be rectified.

The authors of the document were "mainly Westerners and Western-educated people whose moral ideas differed" with those held in Islamic Iran, he said.

See related story on page 2



GUARD OF HONOR: His Majesty King Hussein accompanied Turkish President Suleiman Demirel inspecting a guard of honor at the outset of a brief visit the Turkish leader paid to Jordan on Sunday (see page one) (photo by Yousef Al-Ali)

COLUMN 8

Britain bored with coverage of royal family

LONDON (R) — Britons are bored with press coverage of the royal family's troubles and still solidly support the monarchy, an opinion poll showed Sunday. The poll in the *Independent* on Sunday newspaper said 80 per cent of the 1,100 adults questioned said they were fed up with reading about the royals' trials and tribulations which regularly dominate the front pages of British papers. Sixty-six per cent of those questioned said the monarchy should continue indefinitely. But more than half of those aged under 35 questioned in the NOP poll said they had little or no respect for Queen Elizabeth and her family. Sixty-eight per cent of the sample said they think Prince Charles and Princess Diana should get a divorce.

New accuser fingers Diana over hoax calls

LONDON (AFP) — A former friend of the Princess of Wales was quoted as saying that he too had received hoax telephone calls which he believed could have been from her. The princess, estranged wife of the heir to the British throne, denied in a newspaper interview last week that she had made anonymous hoax calls to another acquaintance, art dealer Oliver Hoare, after the weekly *News Of The World* alleged that they had come from her private number. The latest edition of the mass-circulation Sunday tabloid quoted James Hewitt, a former riding instructor to the princess, as saying that a year ago, after he stopped seeing her, he received about 10 mysterious calls over three weeks. "The phone would ring. I'd pick it up and say 'hello, hello' but there was nothing at the other end," he said.

"Hamas accepts running for legislative elections, assuming free elections will take place," he added.

Mr. Hewitt said election

debating internally whether to form a political party and seek influence through the ballot like its counterpart in Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood.

Hamas sources said the group, which flourished during the Palestinian uprising against Israel, was afraid of being marginalised.

The sources confirmed

contacts with the PLO were

under way and said Hamas

would stand in an election for

a Palestinian parliament.

"What is needed is a dialogue that will not fail so it is

to be carefully prepared," Ismail Haneef, a former Hamas deportee and lecturer at Gaza's Islamic University, told Reuters.

"Taking part in the town

council is a national duty

fulfilling the public interest

and we make a complete,

clear distinction between the

rejected institutions of self-

rule and service institutions,"

said a statement issued in the

name of the Islamic Move-

ment in Jericho.

Islamist Samir Jaha joined

11 other members of the new

council, which will work to

improve services in the

Jericho self-rule area, home

to about 20,000 people.

Similar negotiations to

bring Hamas supporters onto

town councils in Gaza City

and Nablus failed, and the

councils were formed without

any participation from milit-

ants.

Hamas is in a state of flux,

debating internally whether

to form a political party and

seek influence through the

ballot like its counterpart in

Jordan, the Muslim Brother-

hood.

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